Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Arab-Israeli Talks

'Arafat Clarifies Remarks on 'Jihad' in Norway

Peres Arrives, Awaits Clarification

TA1805142394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] In Oslo today, PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said that he is committed to the Document of Principles [DOP] signed with Israel, and that he opposes violence and terror. He further claimed that his remarks were taken out of context, saying that when speaking about jihad, he meant a religious, nonviolent struggle and that his remarks were misconstrued in Israel.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz was told that upon his arrival in Oslo, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres announced that he would boycott all the events he was scheduled to attend with 'Arafat until the PLO head personally announced his commitment to the DOP and declared his opposition to violence and terror, and declared his support for peace.

It has just been reported that Minister Peres indeed boycotted a luncheon with former U.S. President Carter and PLO Chairman 'Arafat. Before holding the joint news conference in which 'Arafat made the above announcement, Peres consulted Prime Minister Rabin regarding the steps he should take during his stopover in Stockholm. [sentence as heard]

'Arafat: Jihad Means 'Peaceful Crusade'

LD1805163294 Stockholm Radio Sweden in Swedish 1445 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] PLO leader 'Arafat appealed for a holy war to free Jerusalem and this was broadcast on the Israeli Radio and, of course, created a great stir. At his press conference in Oslo today, 'Arafat said that the holy war, jihad, is a religious term and that with this word he meant a peaceful campaign.

[Begin 'Arafat recording, in English] What I had mentioned exactly, a religious terminology. Jihad, for your information, I will continue my jihad to achieve peace. [end recording]

[Correspondent Johan Fredriksson] Well, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is of the opinion that he has been misinterpreted. The Israeli Radio had obtained a tape from a meeting in South Africa two weeks ago. Israeli Radio broadcast this tape and it created concern in peace efforts. Yasir 'Arafat used the Arabic word jihad, a holy war, but the statement was just part of religious terminology and what 'Arafat meant was a sort of peaceful crusade for the Palestinian cause, he said. And thus he and the Norwegian mediators were of the opinion that the new threat against the ongoing peace process was alleviated.

As a confirmation of this, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres appeared quite unexpectedly at the news conference in Oslo and then even 'Arafat was surprised. Shim'on Peres said he was satisfied that Yasir 'Arafat has confirmed his and his organization's commitment to the peace process in the Middle East. This is Johan Fredriksson, Oslo.

Further on 'Arafat Explanation

NC1805182394 Paris AFP in English 1635 GMT 18 May 94

[Excerpt] Oslo, May 18 (AFP)—PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat said here Wednesday [18 May] that his recent call for a Moslem holy war should not be construed as hostile to Israel but rather an appeal to strive for complete Middle East peace.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who had said he would query 'Arafat on the remark, walked into an 'Arafat press conference as the PLO leader was giving his explanation. The two men shook hands and Peres took a seat at 'Arafat's side.

They were here for ceremonies honoring Norway's role in brokering the Israeli-PLO peace agreement.

Controversy flared Tuesday when Israeli Radio broadcast what it said was a speech given by 'Arafat May 10 in a Johannesburg mosque in which the Palestinian leader called on Moslems to "take part in a jihad (holy war) to liberate Jerusalem." 'Arafat was in South Africa for Nelson Mandela's inauguration as president.

'Arafat said here Wednesday that his comments had been misunderstood.

Speaking in English, he said, "it seems that they are trying to squeeze me with false means."

He said that after praying at the Johannesburg mosque, "the worshippers asked me to make a religious speech" and he insisted that his use of "jihad" was a religious phraseology.

"For your information," he told reporters, "we can say, 'I will continue my jihad to achieve peace' in an Islamic, in a religious way. We can say 'I will continue my jihad to do my work well, til I will be able to bring Christians, Moslems and Jews to play together in Jerusalem.'"

He insisted: "Some extremists have changed the religious terminology into a political terminology. It is not my fault."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin had warned earlier Tuesday in Israel that if 'Arafat's remarks were confirmed, it "calls into question the peace process."

Rabin warned at a press conference with visiting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher that Israel would "not accept such violations and continue the process." Christopher said he endorsed Rabin's statement.

Wednesday's official agenda said 'Arafat and Peres would take part in the inauguration of a sculpture offered to the Norwegian people for their contribution to the Middle East peace process. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, Aide on 'Crisis'

TA1905084894 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 19 May 94 pp 1, 19

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz in Oslo]

[Excerpt] "I will be moving to Jericho next month, and the PLO headquarters will be moving along with me," Yasir 'Arafat stated last night in an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

He added: "I have not yet set the exact date, but my goal is to move next month. In the initial stage, not all but only part of the headquarters will move, but all of the leadership will be arriving in Jericho with me."

Question: "Do you think the crisis in the wake of your remarks in Johannesburg has been settled?"

'Arafat: "There is no crisis whatsoever; everything is clear now. I spoke in the mosque about 'jihad,' which is a religious term. I did not talk about violence. One meaning of the word 'jihad' is prayer, not war. I am against violence, and I am in favor of all of us doing everything we can to pursue the peace."

'Arafat was in a good mood last night, basking in the flattery and praise of his speech at the Norwegian Peace Institute in Oslo.

"It was very important to me to make people understand what I meant," 'Arafat said. "I did not see anything wrong with it. People who know me know that I was not referring to violence. How could they even conceive of such a thing?!"

At this point, 'Arafat's bodyguards cut off the interview and told me to leave, saying that "the chairman also needs to rest for five minutes."

Marwan Kanafani, 'Arafat's aide, told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night: "The media is to blame for everything. It took a problem of semantics and turned it into a crisis. Whoever wrote such things did not understand their meaning. President 'Arafat was addressing an Iranian audience in the mosque in Johannesburg, and he did not speak about violence. Furthermore, this is not the first time that he talks about the issue of Jerusalem. He always speaks about Jerusalem, not just to the Arabs but to members of all faiths.

"I absolutely do not understand why such a fuss is being made over one word. Imagine us creating a crisis because you insist on calling 'Arafat the chairman, while we insist that he is the president. Those who want peace should not do such things, because it creates a bad feeling." [passage omitted]

Peres: Clarifications 'Minimum' Expected

TA1805183294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 May 94

[Report by Oslo correspondent Yo'av Tocker]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will hold a tete-a-tete meeting with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo this evening. 'Arafat said he is committed to the Declaration of Principles [DOP] signed with Israel and opposes violence and terrorism. The PLO chairman admitted that he had called on Muslims to launch a jihad for the liberation of Jerusalem but noted that he had been referring to a peaceful struggle. 'Arafat alleged that his remarks had been misconstrued. Our correspondent Yo'av Tocker reports on the meeting between 'Arafat and Peres in Oslo:

[Begin recording] [Tocker] In this video footage we can see the exposed tip of the nervous, political-psychological iceberg that was evident here over the past few hours. Mr. Peres arrives at a ceremony held by the Carter Foundation for Human Rights. He approaches the audience and pointedly avoids Yasir 'Arafat, on his right, who, with a knowing smile, is about to take his seat. Several moments earlier, following Peres' demand, and in the wake of U.S. mediation efforts, 'Arafat explained that his call for a jihad was really a call for peace.

['Arafat, in English] I will continue my jihad to achieve peace. We can say it in an Islamic, religious way. I will continue my jihad to do my work very well. I will continue my jihad until I will be able to.... [pauses] Christians and Muslims to pray together; and Jews to pray together in Jerusalem. This is a Terra Santa for Jews, for Christians, for Muslims.

[Tocker] 'Arafat's clarifications, issued with a great deal of embarrassment, were prompted by Peres' ultimatum that 'Arafat must publicly state his commitment to the peace process, which the PLO chairman indeed did, thus apparently satisfying the foreign minister. Nevertheless, when I asked him on behalf of Israel Television what he meant by jihad, 'Arafat refused to clarify his remarks directly to the Israeli people.

[Peres] This is the minimum I expected him to say.

[Tocker] What do you mean by the minimum?

[Peres] In other words, this is what was necessary. The situation was not a simple one, but had he not issued this statement I would not have come.

[Tocker] What do you intend to discuss in your meeting with 'Arafat later this evening? Will you demand that he express even more detailed reservations?

[Peres] He has already expressed whatever reservations were necessary. He made a mistake and subsequently tried to rectify it. However, I hope that all of us, and especially 'Arafat, will honor the DOP.

[Tocker] Beyond what you describe as the minimum, do you accept this interpretation of jihad as semantics, a religious term bereft of any political or military significance?

[Peres] I am not a philologist. I insisted on three other things: his total commitment to the DOP, the total negation of terrorism and violence, and that future developments must be achieved entirely through negotiations.

[Tocker] I noticed that you refrained from talking to 'Arafat or shaking his hand during the ceremony, even after his public clarification.

[Peres] That was not especially called for. [end recording]

Peres: 'Arafat Keeping Commitments

TA1905063394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 19 May 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo, by Hayim Zissowitz in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] We are speaking with you in Oslo following your meeting last night with Yasir 'Arafat. Let us first talk about his explanations, which the prime minister termed far-fetched. Is that how you would describe them?

[Peres] Professor Hayim Weizmann used to say that silence is golden. In other words, there is no doubt whatsoever that this utterance was unnecessary, damaging, and infuriating, but words are hard to take back; one can only explain them and apologize, which is what Mr. Yasir 'Arafat did. Before entering the news conference, the main point on which I insisted was that he reiterate the following three commitments: that he remains faithful and loyal to the Declaration of Principles and has not deviated from it, that he calls for an end to the use of any form of violence and terror, and that all disputed issues in the future will be settled through political rather than any other means.

He said all that, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter witnessed it. Of course, I cannot tell you that I am pleased about the whole business. Indeed, as the prime minister said, it was a mishap—and a regrettable one at that. In our meeting, 'Arafat explained to me that he had been arguing with the Iranians and telling them: You talk about jihad. So, what have you done with this jihad? I believe he has learned his lesson with regard to the future.

[Zissowitz] The recurring impression is that Yasir 'Arafat says certain things when he signs agreements, meets with Israelis, and shakes their hands, and totally different things in closed rooms.

[Peres] There is yet another test. To the best of our knowledge, neither Yasir 'Arafat nor the PLO leadership have lent their hand to the resumption of terror since the Oslo agreement 10 months ago—and this is also a fact. Of course, the verbal mishap remains, but as far as we know, in the field they have remained faithful to their commitment.

[Zissowitz] Nevertheless, they have not canceled the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant calling for Israel's annihilation.

[Peres] Confusion persists on this issue. They canceled them. The PLO leadership officially announced that the Palestinian Covenant is not in effect for all practical purposes; they used the word inoperative [last word in English]. Furthermore, 'Arafat said they will cancel them when the PNC [Palestine National Council]—which has the constitutional right to do so with a two-thirds majority—convenes, but at the moment they are unable to summon the PNC. In our meeting in Cairo, he reiterated his commitment to cancel them when the PNC holds its first session in Gaza. Hence, we cannot say that they have not abided by their commitment. I believe they have a real problem to convene the PNC and to muster a two-thirds majority, because there is no doubt that both the Arab world and the Palestinian world are very divided. What is exceptional about the PLO's position is not that they succeeded in mobilizing the entire Palestinian world but that this is the first time the Palestinians have renounced the path of violence, the path of the mufti of Jerusalem, and turned to a path of compromise and dialogue.

[Zissowitz] We occasionally get the impression that we rush to forgive 'Arafat and forget what he says and what he does not say, such as when he refrained from denouncing the terror attacks in 'Afula and Hadera.

[Peres] My dear friend, only God forgives; people can just pass judgment and remember. We do not forgive anything, and we remain watchful in all spheres—both the declarative and the factual ones—as well as with regard to his efforts to repair the damage when there is a deviation, as in the current mishap and his efforts to amend it. Indeed, he went out of his way to amend it. Having said that, I do not want to justify anything. Still, we take note of all these events, and we know the precise nature of the partner with whom we signed an agreement. I repeat: In practice, they have not deviated from what was agreed.

[Zissowitz] Now that you mention terror, there was an attack yesterday near Netzarim. The terrorists fled into al-Shaja'iyah and the Palestinian policemen certainly did not pursue them. This creates an entirely new situation in the field in everything pertaining to fighting terror.

[Peres] Look, the Palestinian police is also being tested, and it knows it. It realizes that if the police force proves ineffective, nobody will support it. In other words, the Palestinian police needs outside financial support and must build its credibility in order to continue the negotiations. Numerous major tests lie ahead of it, and I have reason to believe that it will really make a supreme effort.

[Zissowitz] Do you also have reason to believe that the Palestinian policemen will join the efforts to thwart terror and arrest those who perpetrate it?

[Peres] I have no doubt about it. They do not have to do it for us, but for themselves.

[Zissowitz] Sir, 'Arafat also talked about the discussion of the fate of Jerusalem in the permanent arrangements.

[Peres] No, he did not talk about what we agreed. You know, the whole business of a letter is a fiction.

[Zissowitz] Did you ask him why he said he had a letter and on what basis he made such allegations about you?

[Peres] I think.... [pauses] Why should I explain anything? I only know that there is no such letter and that this was an unfounded allegation. As for Jerusalem, there is an agreement which says that it is not included in the Gaza-Jericho accord and that it is not part of the autonomy area. When we proceed to discuss the permanent arrangement, they may raise the issue for the agenda, just as they may raise any other issue. If you remember, the late Menahem Begin also said that the Palestinians may raise any issue. Our agreement, however, says that the question of Jerusalem is not connected to Gaza and Jericho and is outside the timetable pertaining to the autonomy. As for the permanent solution, they may raise whatever issue they want.

[Zissowitz] In the debate about the permanent arrangement in Jerusalem, will Israel be prepared to show some flexibility?

[Peres] No, my position on the question of Jerusalem is clear and totally inflexible. I say that Jerusalem is closed from the political point of view and open from the religious one. In other words, from the political point of view, there will be no compromises and Jerusalem will remain Israel's united capital. We will not turn Jerusalem into Berlin; there is no way we are going to build or allow others to build walls in it. From the religious point of view, the Israeli Government proved to be the only government to have given worshipers of all faiths free access to pray in the city without any intervention. I believe one of the greatest achievements—historically, not just diplomatically—is the fact that the Vatican signed an agreement with us on mutual recognition with the status of Jerusalem being what it is: a united Jerusalem. You know, this is the kind of event that happens once in 2,000 years. We would like to reach a similar agreement with the Muslim world. From the religious aspect, everything is open; from the political one, everything is closed.

[Zissowitz] I would like to ask you a question on an entirely different issue. The State Comptroller's Office annual report issued yesterday shows that governments come and go but things remain the same and corruption is rampant.

[Peres] What corruption are you talking about?

[Zissowitz] You may not have heard all the details of the report, but the State Comptroller's Office uncovered corruption in all government ministries.

[Peres] It is not a matter of rampant corruption but of human weaknesses. A person with wings, like an angel, has not yet been created. In my opinion, a government should not be judged by whether its members make mistakes or are corrupt but by whether it fights corruption and mistakes. I believe this government is determined to fight any occurrence of corruption, nepotism, mistakes, and errors.

[Zissowitz] Mr. Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, I thank you very much.

Peres, 'Arafat Agree on Agenda for Expanded Talks

TA1905043194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] In their meeting last night in Oslo, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman 'Arafat agreed on principles and an agenda to begin negotiations on widening the authority of Palestinian self-rule to other areas of Judaea and Samaria, aside from Jericho. The negotiations are to take place in Cairo, but no date was set. Peres told reporters the withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip has been completed properly.

Peres on Syrian Talks, Early-Warning Station

TA1905075794 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 19 May 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo, by Mikhal Gazit and Ya'aqov Eylon in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Eylon] Mr. Peres, with regard to the question of Syria, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest trip received a frosty reaction in Damascus. Do you share this impression? Is the issue stuck or do you see some progress?

[Peres] Look, we know how things work in Damascus. Until they give their agreement, frosty winds blow in all directions. People used to say that the difference between Syria and Lebanon is that with Lebanon it is very easy to reach an agreement but the agreement will be totally worthless, while with the Syrians it is very hard to reach an agreement but the agreement will stand. We

will continue to act and strive until we convince the entire Middle East of the need for peace. In other words, we are the initiating party; we are not being dragged after anybody and we are not the offended party; we do not play sulking games. We have a very clear policy, and we must continue to act to implement it.

[Gazit] Mr. Peres, a banner headline in today's press says that Israel agrees to the establishment of a Syrian early-warning station in the Galilee. Do you have any idea what this is about?

[Peres] In my opinion, all these are premature speculations. I do not think we can discuss such details yet, because the problems between us and Syria are not of a technical nature but are a matter of principle. Only after we reach an agreement in principle will there be room to discuss technical issues.

[Gazit] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, thank you very much.

Syria Said To Propose 4-Year Withdrawal From Golan

TA1805165494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Political sources in Jerusalem have said that in evaluating the proposals relayed by Syria to Israel through U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, one can deduce that Damascus is ready to discuss the time factor for a settlement on the Golan provided Israel announces its agreement to withdraw completely from the Golan. Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor has learned that Syria proposed that the withdrawal be carried out within a period not to exceed four years on condition that it includes security arrangements on both sides of the border.

Inter-Arab Affairs

'Abd-al-Majid on Syria Visit, Efforts in Yemen

NC1805195694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 May 94

[Excerpts] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid returned to Cairo this afternoon from Damascus after a five-day visit to Syria during which he chaired the meetings of the 26th round of the Higher Coordination Committee in Damascus. [passage omitted]

The Arab League secretary general affirmed that the League is doing all it can to stop the bloodshed in Yemen and that it will not stop its efforts in Yemen because the current situation there is very dangerous.

The secretary general said the Arab League delegation was not able to hold contacts with Aden. He noted that he had made some contacts while in Damascus in an attempt to contain the Yemeni crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

Delegation of Civilian Policemen Cross Into Gaza

NC1805142994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Rafah, 18 May (MENA)—A delegation of Palestinian civilian policemen specializing in traffic, investigation, passport, and police station work crossed Rafah border point today into Gaza. Another group that is trained to protect individuals and vital installations, perform basic security operations, and guard civilian administrations, ports, borders, and service departments also crossed Rafah border point today. They were led by Brigadier Generals 'Abd-al-Hayy Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid and Musa 'Arafat. The two groups, totalling 530 people, are from the 'Ayn Jalut and maritime police forces and had received training in Egypt.

Gaza Police Commander on Understanding With Hamas

TA1805151494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Major General [previous two words in English] Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian police force in Gaza, said today that the police has no intention of clashing with the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military arm, 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam. He made the remark in response to a question on whether the Palestinian police would prevent acts of terror by Hamas. Nasr Yusuf added that he had reached full understanding with the leaders of Hamas whom he met over the past several days. Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Yusuf made the remarks at a news conference held at the Ansar-2 detention facility which was handed over to the Palestinians this morning.

General Named Security Head in Gaza Strip, W. Bank

TA1705165694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 May 94 p A5

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat decided not to appoint Muhammad Dahlan and Jibril al-Rujub as heads of security in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The HA'ARETZ correspondent has learned from sources in Tunis that 'Arafat decided to appoint General Misbah Saqr, an inhabitant of al-Shaja'iyah in the Gaza Strip, as head of the security services in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

According to Palestinian sources, 'Arafat chose Saqr, a close confidant, as Dahlan's and al-Rujub's superior because of their close ties with Israeli security elements. Dahlan and al-Rujub are due in the territories today.

Correspondent Views Situation in Gaza Strip

TA1805191894 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 May 94

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Text] As Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip continues, here is some food for thought. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] completed its pullout one week earlier than originally agreed upon in Cairo. This of course was carried out with the agreement of the PLO and the subsequent result is that only one third of the Palestinian forces slated to enter the area have indeed assumed their stations and the Palestinian Authority has yet to be established.

Second, the first impression made by the Fatah units entering the Gaza Strip was better than many Israelis had initially feared. Now, however, things are not looking so good. Looting has become quite widespread in the Gaza Strip and many telephone cables, air conditioners, and other objects have been stolen. The Fatah army has no money. It cannot afford to purchase gas for its vehicles or even food for the troops. In several places, complaints have been received that soldiers are eating at restaurants without paying. The majority of the troops have not received sufficient training in police work.

Third, if money does not arrive quickly from foreign sources, Israel may have to supply the Palestinians with urgent financial aid in order to pay for immediate expenditures. This sum could reach several million shekels.

Fourth, there is a great deal of tension among Fatah operatives in the Gaza Strip who fear that they are being pushed aside by 'Arafat's veteran officers. The open tension between the Fatah activists and the police commanders occasionally precludes cooperation.

On the political level, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has adopted a wait and see approach, while forbidding prisoners to sign any declarations of support for the peace process.

Meanwhile, Fatah has failed to drum up support for an agreement on the establishment of new municipal councils in Nabulus and Hebron. These are all labor pains, of course. 'Arafat wants to differentiate between the Israeli withdrawal and the establishment of his authority. However, seeing as at the present time, there is no real authority in the Gaza Strip to replace Israel's partial control, difficulties can be expected even in the event of a best-case scenario.

Official on Fatah's Participation in Authority

NC1805180694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1335 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Tunis, 18 May (MENA)—Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, Palestinian ambassador in Jordan and member of Fatah's Central Committee, stated that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will complete the formation of the Palestinian National Authority's council following the 'Id al-Adha holidays [21-24 May].

In exclusive remarks to MENA correspondent in Tunis, 'Abd-al-Rahim noted that the council will hold its first meeting in Cairo following the 'Id al-Adha to distribute the portfolios and responsibilities among its members. After that, all the council members will return to the homeland following the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza and Jericho. 'Abd-al-Rahim said that during its meeting in Tunis last night the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council decided to form several committees to work out a plan for the Fatah cadres to return to the homeland with specific assignments and instructions. Under this plan, each cadre could work in his area of specialization within the National Authority's institutions.

'Abd-al-Rahim added that the Fatah Movement's Revolutionary Council stressed the need for the movement to actively and effectively participate in the Palestinian National Authority to strengthen the Palestinian newborn authority. The Revolutionary Council, he added, backed the Central Committee's decision on the need for Fatah's effective participation in the National Authority's council and institutions in a way that reflects the movement's magnitude and role in the Palestinian struggle and to guarantee success for these institutions. 'Abd-al-Rahim added that this will ensure that the beginning in Gaza and Jericho will be the first step toward the liberation of the homeland and the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights. He noted that the Revolutionary Council also made a decision securing the return of most of the movement's cadres to Gaza and Jericho so they could assume their responsibility and consolidate the newborn authority, which is the fruit of many long years of struggle by Fatah.

Concerning the reasons for the delay in signing the executive program of the Palestinian-Jordanian economic agreement, 'Abd-al-Rahim said it was due to two points related to banking coordination and supervision in the self-rule area. He pointed out that in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement and the gains made by the Palestinians under the agreement, sound operational mechanisms had to be found to put the Palestinian-Jordanian agreement into effect and establish excellent ties between the two sides as well as between the Palestinians and other Arab countries.

Spokesman Assails Security Committee Member's Remarks

JN1805175094 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] An official spokesman for the Central Committee of the Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah [dissident], has asserted that statements made by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Majayizah, member of the so-called committee negotiating Palestinian security and one of 'Arafat's supporters, on disarming our people's masses expose the mission and role of the self-rule police.

He said that 'Arafat's police are doing what the Zionist enemy has failed to do over the past years to harm our people's steadfastness and resistance. The spokesman urged the sons of our people and their active forces to be vigilant toward such statements and their dimensions.

Fatah Revolutionary Council Holds Ordinary Session

LD1805194994 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 18 May 94

[Excerpt] The revolutionary council of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement, Fatah, held its 12th ordinary session in Tunis. It was the martyr-leader Abu al-Mundhir and the Khalil al-Rahman martyrs' session held in the period between 16 and 17 May. The council heard the report of the central committee, read out by brother Abu al-Lutf, as well as the reports of the committees related to various activities.

Brother President Yasir 'Arafat spoke in detail about what happened from Madrid to Cairo, and what has been realized, the entry of the Palestinian security forces to the homeland and the popular welcome accorded to these forces, as well as about the need for the solidarity of all to care for the newly-born Palestinian Authority which needs the arms of all cadres and leaderships. 'Arafat spoke also about the importance of the historic step achieved as a result of the sacrifice of thousands of martyrs, injured, prisoners, and detainees. [passage omitted]

Palestinians 'Disappointed' With Christopher Meeting

TA1905093294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 May 94 p A5

[Report by Shlomo Dror]

[Excerpts] "It was an ordinary business meeting," Hanan 'Ashrawi stated at the end of a one-hour meeting U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher held yesterday at the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem with a group of Palestinian figures that included Faysal al-Husayni and Hebron Mayor 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah.

"We touched upon all possible issues," said al-Husayni upon emerging from the meeting, in which he asked Christopher to intercede with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to lift the closure on Jerusalem. "The occupied territories and Jerusalem are one," he said, "and it is inconceivable that the Israelis are creating an unnatural division." Al-Husayni emphasized that there is no difference between the Arabs of Jerusalem and those living in the West Bank. According to him, the closure splits up families, affects their economic situation, and denies them the right to worship in Muslim holy places. [passage omitted]

Due to the brief nature of the session, the participants had no time to discuss the continuation of the process or special aid requests. "The meeting was meant to present urgent problems," 'Ashrawi said. Christopher promised to raise the problems with Rabin in their next meeting. "The difficulties will disappear as time goes by, and when everything starts working out, the Israelis will be more flexible," he said.

The Palestinians emerged disappointed from the meeting. Other than promising to raise the problems they presented with Rabin, Christopher did not commit himself to anything. Palestinian sources said that Christopher knows he cannot conclude anything with the people with whom he met even if he wanted to. "The Americans are in Rabin's pocket," one Palestinian said. "Now that he has given back Jericho and Gaza, he cannot be pressured; the U.S. secretary of state knows it, and we know it."

'Ashrawi also noted that as far as the Palestinians are concerned, it would have been better to negotiate directly with Israel, but that constraints in the field preclude it. [passage omitted]

Islamic Jihad Says Leader's Remarks Distorted

LD1705175094 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—The Islamic Jihad Movement of Palestine on Tuesday [17 May] accused the REUTERS of distorting the remarks made by the secretary-general of the movement Fathi Shaqaqi in an interview with the daily AL-QUDS.

REUTERS quoting Shaqaqi had earlier reported that the Islamic Jihad Movement was considering a new strategy to prove that it was a political movement, and that it was ready to cooperate with the Palestinian police to enforce the Gaza-Jericho deal.

The movement in a statement published Tuesday, reiterated its commitment to its strategy of confronting the Zionist regime, and said "this policy is definite and unalterable."

It said that struggle is a legal, historical and religious right for the Palestinian people that can by no means be ignored. The movement would encounter the Zionist aggressors any time and anywhere, it stressed.

Fathi Shaqaqi had told the daily that "the movement would do its best to avoid clashes with Palestinian police in Gaza and Jericho even though this might make us change some of our tactics."

Shaqaqi had continued by saying that the principled stance of the movement was based on rejecting and disgracing the Gaza-Jericho compromise deal, and opposing any measure which would likely legitimize the occupation of each and every part of Palestine.

Hamas Demands 'Immediate' Release of Shaykh Yasin

PM1905112694 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 19 May 94 p 5

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Hamas Demands Its Founder's Release"]

[Text] Damascus—The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) has demanded the "immediate" release of Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the movement's leader, who has been in the occupation's jails for five years. It renewed its rejection of the "undertaking statement" which the occupation forces want the detainees to sign before they can be released from detention centers.

A statement issued by Hamas, a copy of which AL-HAYAH's Damascus bureau has received, says: "We demand the immediate release of Shaykh Yasin and his detained brothers. We condemn discrimination between detainees on the basis of their political and ideological positions. Yasin has rejected all the enemies' bargaining over his release. He has also turned down the offers made by (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq) Rabin and (Foreign Minister Shim'on) Peres to release him immediately in return for supporting the so-called peace agreement."

The movement warned of "the deterioration of Yasin's health. We condemn the obstruction of his receiving medical treatment and undergoing surgical operations and the enemy government's persistence in refusing to allow a national team to supervise Ahmad Yasin's treatment. We hold the Rabin government responsible for anything that may happen to him."

The movement renewed its absolute rejection of "the humiliating document (the undertaking statement) which the enemy authorities" say must be signed. The movement said that "while Hamas salutes the steadfastness of Palestine's Shaykh and his brothers detained in the occupation jails, it stresses that their detention will lead only to further escalation and resistance against the occupation. All sincere people and mujahidin will continue their efforts to secure the release of Shaykh Yasin and his heroic brothers."

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the "Palestinian Forces Alliance" opposed to the Oslo accord has urged governments of the Arab and Islamic states and international organizations to work to secure Yasin's release. It said: "It is meaningless to release some detainees and continue to hold others. Human rights are indivisible."

Abu-Hamad Mustafa, Hamas' representative in Damascus, told AL-HAYAH that the alliance yesterday staged a sit-in outside the International Red Cross offices. Alliance representatives demanded Yasin's release. Hamas' representative added that the representatives submitted a memorandum to the UN office for delivery to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali.

Hamas Denounces Palestinian Side's 'Policy of Deception'

TA1705174794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 May 94 p 3

[Excerpts] Gaza—In a statement distributed yesterday, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] denounced the policy of deception that the Palestinian side is pursuing with regard to the agreements that are being reached and the fact that it is not telling the truth to the people. This, in contrast to Rabin and his government who are proudly informing their people about the agreements reached with 'Arafat.

This statement came in response to the meeting held last Wednesday in Cairo, the day of the signing of the agreement [4 May], between Muhammad Dahlan and Jibril al-Rujub with the head of Shin Bet.

In its statement, Hamas criticized the reported cooperation between the two sides in the security sphere and the exchange of information about the activities of Islamic forces in Gaza. [passage omitted]

The statement added: During the meeting, the Shin Bet head forced Dahlan and al-Rujub not to prosecute collaborators, and al-Rujub confirmed this to the news media.

In its statement, Hamas denounced the fact that those at the meeting permitted themselves to aid in the liquidation of a large sector of their people for rejecting the occupation and its consequences. At the same time they committed themselves not to prosecute collaborators, who played an important role in the establishment of the special units and the protection of settlers.

In its statement, Hamas stressed that it will continue the march regardless of the cost.

Hamas Hopes Police Force Not To Be 'Burden'

JN1805182794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Within reactions to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, the Islamic [Resistance] Movement, Hamas, said that the agreement and the resulting sell-out and dissipation of Palestinian rights has exceeded all limits. In a statement today, the Movement voiced its strong rejection of the agreement's provisions and all its repercussions on the Palestinians. It said the agreement is expected to have serious connotations and repercussions which might result in confrontations among the Palestinian people themselves, something which the Israelis had been endeavoring to realize for a long time.

The Movement said: We are apprehensive that when the Palestinian police arrive in the Gaza and Jericho areas, they will be transformed into forces whose aim would be to continue arrests among our people instead of providing security, reassurance, and stability which were denied the Palestinian people for a long time.

The Movement hoped that the Palestinian police force will back their Palestinian brothers and will not be a burden to them. It warned that the Movement will not sit idly by if these forces adopt the role of an honest guard to the Zionist settler presence.

The Movement said that if the 'Arafat leadership followed the policy of gagging people, confiscating their liberties, and imposing emergency regulations on the citizens, it will enter into a big labyrinth and the situation will become like a powder keg, liable to explode at any moment.

PFLP, DFLP Accuse Israel of Pressuring Detainees

JN1305200694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] A media spokesman for the unified Central Command of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said that intense pressure is being applied on their detainees inside the prisons of the Israeli occupation authorities to secure their approval of the Gaza-Jericho accord.

The spokesman said in Damascus today that Israeli authorities have been seeking to strike a demeaning and cheap bargain with the detainees requiring them to undertake in writing that they support the Gaza-Jericho accord.

The detainees, noted the spokesman, rejected the deal that seeks to deprive them of their legitimate right to pursue the fight against occupation and settlement activity. He urged human rights organizations to move to obtain freedom for the detainees and guarantee their right to free self-expression.

Editorial Says 'Arafat Story Based on 'Hearsay'

PM1905110094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 19 May 94 p9

[Editorial: "That Israeli Storm"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has created a serious political storm by claiming that a statement attributed to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on Jerusalem was a threat to the peace agreements.

The world shook and judgments were passed after the statements attributed to Yasir 'Arafat about jihad for Jerusalem, a recording of which was broadcast by Israel radio the day before yesterday.

We heard that the Palestinian president made the statements attributed to him at a mosque in Johannesburg in South Africa. Regardless of the circumstances in which the statements were made, how accurately they were reported, and the timing of their reporting, one week after the fact, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has insisted on exploiting the event and on regarding it as "a serious violation of his ['Arafat's] written undertakings which threatens the peace process." Rabin's escalation got sympathy from U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who directed his aides to investigate the statements.

All that despite the fact that there was no Palestinian confirmation of the alleged statements and despite the fact that a responsible U.S. source said that there should be no exaggeration of what was alleged to have happened or what did happen. Even [Israeli] Communication and Culture Minister Shulamit Aloni—of Meretz, which supports full withdrawal from the occupied territories—downplayed the "seriousness" of the statements and said that 'Arafat perhaps wanted "to voice his fear of the fait accompli and disappointment at having gotten less than he had hoped for" in the negotiations with Israel.

Judgments have been passed with hints of jeopardizing the withdrawal program and reneging on the agreements even though the whole story is hearsay. Regardless of what 'Arafat did or did not say, the fact remains that Jerusalem, the first qiblah [to which Muslims used to turn in their prayers] and the third holy place, belongs to the Muslims, and Israel should realize this fact.

By contrast, and this is what is really strange, the charge made by the UN observers in Hebron yesterday that the Israeli Army was preventing them from carrying out their mission as observers of Palestinian safety in the city, has passed unnoticed, and the words and actions of Jerusalem's Mayor Ehud Olmert (a former minister in the Likud government) and his call for the confirmation of Jerusalem as "the unified and eternal capital" of Israel, disregarding the feelings of Muslims and Christians throughout the world, have fallen on deaf ears and blind eyes.

We talk and are blamed, and they act and are acquitted.

Christopher's Current Tour of Region Viewed

TA1805061994 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 May 94 p 11

[Editorial: "So That Christopher's Mission Will Succeed"]

[Text] Once again U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher returned to the region yesterday on the limited mission of invigorating the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track. He is bringing with him the Israeli Government's answers to a number of questions posed by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during his last meeting with the U.S. secretary, in preparation for the resumption of the bilateral talks. No date has yet been set for holding these talks in Washington because of the fundamental differences that continue to separate the Syrian and Israeli positions.

Certainly, the progress achieved so far has been too little and too slow. Syrian-Israeli differences revolve around the principle of implementing international resolutions, especially with regard to Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights in accordance with Security

Council Resolution 242. So far Israel has refused to do so and has added a number of preconditions to any partial withdrawal to which it will agree. It is also evident that past U.S. efforts, including the shuttle trips by former Secretary of State James Baker and Secretary Christopher, have failed to bridge the existing major gap and, consequently, failed to give impetus to the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track.

Naturally, creating such an impetus and emerging from the stalemate require serious U.S. positions that press for implementing international resolutions, particularly Resolution 242. Hence, talk about gradual and partial withdrawals from occupied Syrian lands without knowing the extent of Israeli commitment to full withdrawal, and a demand for full peaceful relations with a prior commitment to this, do not conform with the stated aims of the peace process and flagrantly contradict the required trust for peacemaking.

In short, so that the U.S. secretary of state's upcoming tour of the region will not be similar to the previous ones, what is required today is more than the idea of partial withdrawal and is confined to clear Israeli respect for the resolutions of international legitimacy and the commitment to implement them. This will open the way to invigorating the talks. Such a development requires a real and serious effort by the U.S. secretary during his talks in Israel rather than in Damascus. Otherwise, the entire peace process will remain at a standstill despite the limited achievements made so far.

Paper Praises Christopher's Remarks in Jericho

TA1805152394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 18 May 94 p 13

[Editorial: "Christopher's Visit to Jericho"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Jericho yesterday reflects his country's interest and that of the international community in general in the steps achieved by the peace process, most prominent of which was the Palestinian Authority's assumption of the security task in and the administration of the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

As far as the Palestinians are concerned, Christopher's visit expresses the continuation of the role of the participating sponsor which the United States has been fulfilling since the Madrid Conference. The U.S. secretary's remarks in Jericho affirmed this sense through the words of encouragement and support. The visit provided an opportunity to Secretary Christopher to be apprised the situation in the interim rule area in all its aspects and from the first days of the Palestinian National Authority's assumption of its task.

Needless to say the construction of the new-born Palestinian entity will begin from zero. On this basis, the supporting role of the United States and of other donor countries in building the Palestinian economy and infrastructure must not be delayed, since the interim stage stipulated in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles [DOP] has already begun. The DOP has been supported by the international community as the first step toward the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The Palestinian side has proved, in practice, its commitment to peace and to the agreements signed with the Israeli side. It is up to the parties that are eager to promote and expand the peace project—amid a harsh and difficult environment—to create the suitable conditions for rebuilding the Palestinian edifice in all spheres. This is because, on one hand, peace does not endure amid suffering and misery. On the other hand, the repercussions of what takes place on the Palestinian track, whether positively or negatively, will affect the other Arab tracks which are looking forward to the Palestinian example to draw the appropriate lessons and conclusions.

Undoubtedly, this visit by the U.S. secretary of state represents the beginning of action by various parties and international forces that support peace. The sons of the Palestinian people are awaiting a practical response to this action after having suffered a long time under total Israeli occupation and its consequences on the Palestinian economic infrastructure in general.

Paper Hails Swift Response to Settlers' Attacks

PM1805153394 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 18 May 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Swift and Justified Palestinian Revenge"]

[Text] The fedayeen operation carried out by the men of the intifadah in Hebron yesterday, resulting in two Israeli settlers being killed and a third wounded, was in retaliation to the attacks carried out by armed settlers on the people of the town which left at least 18 people wounded.

The striking thing is that the Palestinian retaliation was carried out one day after the incident in question—which means that there is a decision not to stay silent about any Israeli attacks in the future, whether in Hebron or elsewhere.

The Israeli authorities are responsible for these violent incidents. Because they defied the international will and sought to continue to humiliate the Palestinians when they refused to remove their settlements and settlers from Hebron in the wake of the tension that dominated the area following the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre, which resulted in the martyrdom of at least 100 people.

When Israeli Environment Minister Yosi Sarid says that coexistence between the Arabs and the Jews in the town is no longer possible, he is adding nothing new. All settlements in the occupied territories represent for the Arabs a constant provocation and an obstacle to any peace process.

The Rabin government wanted to use the Hebron settlements in particular as a bargaining chip to secure some concessions from the PLO. Because it knew that the latter was in an embarrassing situation after the massacre. And now it is realizing just how costly that reckless and unstudied action has proved to be.

What applies to the Hebron settlements applies to the Gaza Strip settlements, whose population does not exceed 4,000 settlers and which do not represent any economic or security value aside from disrupting the Palestinians' existence and continuing to embarrass the Palestinian leadership.

In the past Israeli governments have used security as an excuse to build and expand settlements. But since Iraq's al-Husayn missiles landed in downtown Tel Aviv without missing their targets even once, all these pretexts and excuses have collapsed and the settlements have become a burden on the security of Israel and the Israelis and the object of Arab and international criticisms.

It is fortunate that the Israeli tide of violence and the swift Palestinian revenge for those wounded by the settlers' bullets should coincide with Israeli [as published] Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the region in the framework of his shuttle between Damascus and occupied Jerusalem to reactivate the Israeli-Syrian track. Prehaps Christopher realizes for the umpteenth time the danger of continued Israeli occupation and its impact on peace and stability in the region as a whole.

Israel, which is submitting a long list of impossible conditions and giving priority to normalization before any positive step regarding withdrawal, is refusing to abandon many of its aggressive aspects so that it can become a state, like other states, that respects international law.

It is unnatural for international observers to enjoy respect and cooperation from host states throughout the world, and nothing but scorn, maltreatment, and spying [from Israel], as mentioned by a Danish newspaper, quoting circles close to Danish soldiers in Hebron.

The crisis lies in the presence of a man like Rabin, who continues to think like a general and has no clear strategic views for peace. This is why he and his government continue to act haphazardly inside and outside the occupied territory. So we must expect more surprises in Hebron and elsewhere in the coming days and months.

Algeria

Transitional National Council Holds Session

Zeroual Addresses Council

LD1805165394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 May 94

[Speech by President Liamine Zeroual to the Transitional National Council in Algiers on 18 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr. Head of government; members of the government; Mr. Chairman of the Maghreban Consultative Council; their excellencies, members of the Diplomatic Corps; ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to start by expressing my happiness and satisfaction at being present here with you at this ceremony in which we are inaugurating the Transitional National Council.

The setting up of the Transitional National Council is the realization of one of the main decisions taken at the Conference of National Concord; the conference that gave the country the platform for defining the aims of the transitional period.

On this occasion, it is appropriate that I should reiterate my firm conviction to work for the realization of the aims of this platform.

I would also not want to miss this opportunity to applaud you, O members of the Transitional National Council, and applaud other parties, organizations and institutions that you are representing, for your sense of responsibility by answering the call of duty in order to serve the higher interest of the nation.

Furthermore, through this patriotic commitment of yours, you have responded positively to the call of the nation and consolidated, thanks to your stance, the legitimate aspirations of our people that Algeria will surely successfully surmount the current difficulties.

The Transitional National Council, which forms one of the necessary foundations to complete this decisive stage fruitfully, is also considered an important instrument for carrying out the program to get our country out of the crisis, and realizing democracy in the framework of respect for the deep-rooted values of the Algerian people. With the acceptance by all of us of the leadership of the transitional stage, we will have responded to the call of the people, and I am persuaded that, with the help and grace of God, we will be able to pool efforts to realize all the objectives mentioned in the national consensus platform agreed a few months ago, particularly those pertaining to the organizing of free and democratic elections that give substance to the options of the nation in all freedom.

The national people's army, which adheres to the Constitution, will be a guarantor for any political solution in this framework.

The setting up of the Transitional National Council, which comes after the installation of the National Economic and Social Council, confirms the principal feature of the approach we have chosen to deal with the problems experienced by our country. This approach consists of political and social consultation, especially as the current situation makes it necessary for all the patriots who are concerned for the country's stability to fully mobilize themselves so as to make the transitional phase successful and get the country out of its plight.

Your council is a tangible expression of the mobilization of all those who believe in the potential of the country and are working to bring national political life back to normal. I am convinced that you will be working in this direction in total belief and conviction.

Gentlemen, ladies: The track of democratic edification that we started is a demand that emanates from the depths of society. We strive to entrench it, not as a method dictated by circumstances but because we are convinced that, thanks to pluralist democracy, it enables us to provide a qualitative mutation for our country that will permit it to resume its ambitious project of economic and social development. In this respect, I should like to make clear that by edifying democracy we will endeavor to strengthen political society, and at the same time entrench civil society. Because each of them has its own particular role and specific function in society—they complete each other, and we do not want to see any of them as an alternative to the other. Here lies the theme of our efforts aimed at launching a political dialogue in a legal framework and for a specific objective.

The framework of the dialogue should fall within the context of respect for the Constitution and the law and the rejection of violence, which perpetrators and those who have been conniving with them have been wantonly carrying out against the nation.

The aim of such a dialogue is, however, to unite the efforts and to bring together the resources of our nation in order to realize the aims of the transitional period as stipulated by the platform of the National Concord Conference. This is the framework and the aim of a dialogue, which should be a constructive one, open to all those who are prepared to put the interests and the unity of the Algerian people before any other consideration.

This dialogue should not be, however, based upon particular partisan choices, rather it should be focused upon the nation's great problems, which have been awaiting urgent solutions.

Our call for a dialogue without excluding anyone stemmed from our deep conviction that it is the best means that will allow us to unite all national forces, which have nothing to do with extremism and other imported ideas, regardless of their origin. However, I would like to point out here today in front of you that my

endeavor—which I initiated last March within the framework of reviving the political dialogue—was not properly understood by a number of parties.

Therefore, every one must define his position in all clarity in accordance with the specified framework and objective, and away from any of the calculations or maneuvers that have become known to domestic public opinion. Concerning the state, I affirm here that it will be bearing without hesitation, and with all determination, all its commitments to leading the transitional stage. In this respect, the restoration of stability in the country and the preservation of the security of individuals and property are top of the priorities. Furthermore, the state will continue the realization of these objectives without a pause until violence and terrorism are definitively eliminated from our society.

I would also like to greet and praise our national people's armed forces, security forces, cadres, men of culture, and all the citizens who are standing courageously in the face of the enemies of our homeland. We will eliminate violence and terrorism in our society within the framework of law. This is our will and determination.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Transitional National Council must above all be vigilant in respecting the Constitution and the platform of national consensus. It also constitutes an arena for consultation and democratic debate on the main issues of the nation.

There is no doubt that it will be the best place for reinforcing the exercise of pluralism and democracy demanded by all. Ladies and gentlemen, the importance of the challenge and the weight of the responsibility falling upon you to make this institution successful in carrying out its tasks is self-evident.

There is no doubt that the cross-section of people who make up your council will, thanks to their attributes and capabilities, know how to live up to the legitimate aspirations of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have emphasized time and time again that we desire to continue the structural reforms of the national economy and to establish the market economy system. These reforms are such as to allow our country to exploit its national resources in a rational manner; it will lead to a renewed respect for work and effort and will open up the way for our creative energy.

We are convinced that this endeavor will in fact respond to the new requirements of the development of our country, and the changes currently marking the world economy. Likewise, the market economy we are seeking, and about which many economic and social partners are asking questions, we want it to be built on consultation and social justice . Effectively, there will be a participation of economic entrepreneurs, social partners and experts in the laying down of the major orientations of the national economy, and in assessing the work undertaken in the field. At the same time, the state will ensure that the burdens caused by economic reforms are equitably borne, and with all vigilance the state will also ensure that social justice prevails and national solidarity is promoted.

It is also self-evident that the state will continue to perform its role as an active element in national economic development. Thus, and thus alone we can control the new course that the national economy has embarked on, to make it produce the hoped for results and minimize as much as possible the negative consequences that might appear.

No doubt you are aware that our economy is at a cross-roads. It is also easy for you to realize the significant role of your institutions to tackle the new challenges that are awaiting our country.

The responsibility lies on the shoulders of your council to be keen on the principles of modernity, progress, social justice and national solidarity, which will all remain the firm basis of the eternal November revolution.

Every effort is being deployed to ensure a patriotic training based upon new methods aimed at promoting all Algerians and particularly young people who are the true wealth. More chances of employment should be given to young people. Thanks to the continuous effort in the field of training, young people should regain the position that is theirs on the path of development.

At the same time, the younger generations will play an increasingly bigger role in the running of the nation's affairs. This is a new fact that is reflected in reality through the membership of your council.

As regards our community abroad and as I have previously stressed, it will receive a special focus in whatever action we undertake for the benefit of our homeland and people.

The state will ensure the protection of our community abroad, it will also make all the necessary arrangements to allow it to consolidate solidarity among its ranks and to fully take part in national development, in which it has a role to play.

Ladies and gentlemen: Algeria will work at international level to consolidate its relations of good-neighborliness with fraternal countries and to revive the process of the building of the Arab Maghreb, which it views as a historical and strategic aim in the region.

It will continue, with the same spirit, its endeavor to clean up the political atmosphere in the Arab arena and bring about solidarity in the African continent.

At the same time we would like to reiterate our determination to bolster and consolidate relations of cooperation and integration with Mediterranean countries.

Algeria will naturally continue to show an interest in the expansion of its cooperation with the European Union and the rest of the foreign partners based upon mutual respect and reciprocity.

Ladies and gentlemen: I have already affirmed my conviction in a strong and an ambitious Algeria that is able to face up to the challenges and to mobilize all its resources in a bid to make a real break with all negative methods and behavior.

However, we would like such a change to be comprehensive, in which all patriotic political, economic, social, and cultural forces would take part in a program that would unite all Algerians and would bring as many benefits as possible to our citizens from our country's real resources.

I am persuaded that, thanks to the joining of your efforts with those of the government, this option will gradually turn into tangible realities, and open the road to the realization of the objectives we have set for ourselves, i.e. serving the people and the supreme interests of the homeland alone. We will thereby be building a solid foundation with the hope and trust that will be resurrected in our countryside and towns, and thereby we will be preserving the heritage of the martyrs of the eternal November revolution.

Finally, I officially announce the installation in its functions of the National Transitional Council. I wish you success in your tasks and sincere endeavors to get Algeria out of its' crisis. Glory and eternal life to our loyal martyrs. Long live Algeria. May the peace and mercy of God be upon you.

Report on Council Session

LD1805133294 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The most prominent event in Algeria today is the inauguration of the Transitional National Council. The radio team at the headquarters of the former National People's Assembly will give more details. Over to Messaoud Aouchallouch:

[Messaoud] Yes, Rachid. Ladies and gentleman, peace be upon you. Rachid, the official inauguration ceremony began at about 1105, presided over by Liamine Zeroual, the state president. The president gave an address at the beginning of which he focused on the importance of the Transitional National Council as an institution which embodies one of the most important resolutions of the National Consensus Conference and one of the essential foundations for the fruitful completion of this decisive stage. It is also considered an important means of implementing the program to extricate the country from the crisis and achieve democracy within the framework of respect for the deep-rooted values of the Algerian people.

Liamine Zeroual made a point of recalling the state's obligations to achieve all the goals of the platform of national consensus, especially those related to organizing free and democratic elections which give the choice of the nation full sovereignty. He noted that this council emphasizes the main characteristic of the government's endeavor to tackle the problems of the country; this endeavor is reflected in the political and social consultation.

The state president seized this opportunity to explain a few positions around which a lot of controversy was aroused in respect of the efforts aiming at reviving the political and social dialogue within a legitimate framework and specified objectives, as he described it. Liamine Zeroual said: Our invitation to dialogue—he said this as an explanation—our invitation to dialogue emanates from our deep conviction that it is the path that will allow us to gather all national forces which are far from any extremism and imported ideas from whatever source. However, I would like to make clear to you, the state president went to say, that the effort which I began last March within the framework of reviving the political dialogue was not understood correctly by some parties. Therefore, it is imperative for everyone to define his position very clearly according to the defined framework and objectives, and away from any calculations or maneuvers.

Concerning the state, I would emphasize here, the state president added, that it will shoulder, without any hesitation and with full determination, all its commitments in leading the transitional period. In this respect, the restoration of stability to the country and the protection of the security of the individuals and properties come at the fore of our priorities. The state will continue to achieve these objectives without ceasing until the total elimination of violence and terrorism from our society.

After the head of state's address the national anthem was played, and Mr. Bouchaib, the most senior of the members, announced that the session was adjourned and that it will resume later in a closed session. Regarding the presidency of the council, I should point out that according to the latest reports this will go to a person who represents the institution of the state, Mr. Abdelkader Bensalah, the former spokesman for the National Dialogue Commission, who was a member of the dissolved National Assembly and chaired one of its committees. He was also a director of ECH-CHAAB newspaper and is now a senior official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

If the choice of Bensalah as the only candidate is finally confirmed, the elections will be unopposed and will take place 10 days after this inauguration, bearing in mind that Article 34 of the National Consensus Document stipulates that the president of the Transitional National Council should be elected by the members of the Council for the duration of the transitional period.

Zeroual Issues Pardon for 'About 1,000' Prisoners

LD1905102194 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] President of the Republic Liamine Zeroual has issued a legal decree based on the recommendation of

the justice minister stipulating the pardon of prisoners who were involved in cases not related to crimes of terrorism, sabotage, and state security.

The decree stipulates the cancellation of the prison sentences for those who were sentenced to three months' imprisonment, which allows the release of about 1,000 prisners. It also stipulates the partial reduction of prison sentences ranging between 4 and 7 months.

Egypt

Visit of U.S. Secretary Christopher Reported

Arrives on One-Day Visit

NC1805163094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1548 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Cairo this evening on a one-day visit to Egypt. During his visit, Christopher will meet with President Husni Mubarak to brief him on the results of his talks with officials in Syria and Israel. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met Christopher at the airport.

Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC1805170094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—This evening at the presidential headquarters, President Husni Mubarak received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The president and Christopher held talks, which were also attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dennis Ross, the general coordinator of the Middle East peace process.

Attends Joint News Conference

NC1805183994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher briefed him on all the events of the past two days in his talks with officials in Syria and Israel. He affirmed the importance of reaching an agreement between the two sides in this regard.

At the news conference he held together with the U.S. secretary after their talks, which lasted 45 minutes, President Husni Mubarak affirmed the importance of continuing the peace process until they reach their conclusion and peace is established in the whole region.

He said that we are working very hard together with the Americans to resolve the complicated problems between Syria and Israel with the objective of reaching a final solution.

President Husni Mubarak said that Syria and Israel are both working for peace, but the problem between them needs some time to be resolved.

On the situation in Yemen, President Mubarak said: I have repeatedly warned against the use of force and pointed out that force cannot resolve the problem. Since the beginning, I have advised that the forces should be separated and that a dialogue should be started. The Yemeni president did not accept this advice and maintained that there can be no dialogue with these people.

President Mubarak said that it is very difficult to predict what will happen in Yemen.

On his part, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said: I have once again come to this country, which has exerted great efforts, just as President Husni Mubarak has done his best, to help the Palestinians and Israelis sign an agreement.

He added that Syria plays an important role in establishing peace in the region and that Egypt is always ready to give all the necessary help on all levels.

President Mubarak made a statement at the beginning of the news conference in which he welcomed U.S. Secretary of State Christopher. He said: Christopher told me about the efforts that have been made in the talks between Syria and Israel, "because it is very important that the two parties reach a peace agreement as they realize their dire need for peace." He stressed that the two sides want to continue their negotiations, noting that this is the appropriate time to resolve the problem. He said that the current developments in Gaza and Jericho were discussed, adding: "I am personally following the situation there. The morale of the citizens is very high, and the police and people are happy because they wish to solve the problem. They want to build their homeland after 27 years [of occupation]." It is very important to continue the peace process until the end so that peace may prevail in the entire region. He said: We will work hard toward this goal along with the United States to resolve this very complicated problem and to reach a final agreement between the Syrians and Israelis.

Christopher then made a statement in which he thanked President Mubarak. He said: I am happy to return to this land and meet the man who contributed such a great deal toward the signing of the agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis. He said: When I was in Jericho yesterday, I was reminded of President Mubarak and saw that dreams have come true. I also remembered him when I saw that real progress has been made. He said that he remembered President Mubarak because he contributed a great deal toward this goal, stressing that Egypt is worthy of utmost appreciation for the role it played in this respect.

Christopher said: Our feeling on the importance of achieving peace in the region has been revived. We hope to build on what has already been achieved in Gaza and Jericho. This is a sign for the people of the region and we

hope to build on what has been achieved in Gaza and Jericho. This achievement is a sign for the people in the region as to what peace can achieve.

Christopher said he spoke with President Mubarak about the Syrian track, noting that President Mubarak is fully aware of developments on this track. I told President Mubarak that we have started down the road but it is still long, and Egypt wants to help make progress on this track. He said: I am happy to exchange views with President Mubarak who always receives his guests warmly and always plays an effective role in establishing peace in the region.

In response to a question on whether he received a message from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat regarding yesterday's crisis, Christopher replied in the negative. He said: I understand that contact took place between 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Oslo, but I have no details about their discussions. Anyway, let me tell you that it is important for 'Arafat to keep his commitments to the Washington ceremony, putting an end to (?violence) and terrorism in the region. He said: "I believe that it is important for him, in his capacity as an important leader to whom the world looks up, to realize the consequences of his deeds. I hope that this situation will be cleared up and hope to receive a report on this issue because the United States believes that compliance with obligations is fundamental under the circumstances.

Answering a question on whether Syria and Israel are close to reaching agreement based on what he has heard from Secretary Christopher, or whether there still is a gap between them, President Mubarak said: I can safely tell you that what I have felt this time around is that the two parties are working for peace. I have already said that it is a complicated problem that needs time, but as long as the talks continue, there are great hopes for peace.

On whether he received any messages or envoys from north Yemen, President Mubarak said: I have not received any messages from the Yemeni president about sending an envoy. However, about four or five days ago, I asked him to send a special envoy to Cairo, so he sent his foreign minister. I held extended talks with him. I also stated publicly that the use of force is not a form of unity, but a form of occupation because unity needs the willingness of both sides to achieve it. [passage omitted]

With regard to the stand of Egypt, the Arabs, and the United States on the crisis in Yemen, President Mubarak affirmed that it is difficult to predict what will happen in Yemen. He said: All I can say is what I have said many times before, that battles and war are an endless condition in Yemen. We have much experience in the region. War will not resolve the problem, but will cause more hatred, even after the war ends.

He added: I advised right from the beginning that the forces should be separate, that the forces of the north should be distanced from the forces of the south, and that dialogue should start. But they did not accept this and now there is no other way but a cease-fire to remove the forces from the battleground so there can be a dialogue. The president of Yemen ha said that there can be no dialogue with these people. I believe that this will not go anywhere in the future. [passage omitted]

Answering a question posed to President Mubarak on the message he would like to send to Syria after helping with the achievements between the Palestinians and the Israelis, President Mubarak said: I do not wish to compare the situation of the Syrian track with that of the Palestinian track. However, I can tell you that the Syrians want to resolve the problem and find a comprehensive solution to it. There is no basis for comparison between one case and the other.

On whether President Mubarak is ready to play a similar role to the one he played in the Palestinian track, the president said that they are ready to help if the situation requires their help. He pointed out that the U.S. secretary of state held discussions with the Syrian officials and exchanged viewpoints with them, in addition to listening to various ideas. He is trying to help the two sides.

The president said: When I meet with President al-Asad, I will raise all these issues with the objective of making some progress in that direction.

Christopher answered the same question, saying: We are at a very early stage of this process. The issues presented before the Syrian and the Israeli sides are very difficult, as are their sub-issues. The road ahead is still very long and I do not wish to make any predictions now on whether anything in particular will happen in the near future.

Departs Cairo

NC1905070894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0645 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Cairo this morning at the end of a 24-hour visit to Egypt during which he met President Husni Mubarak and briefed him on the results of his shuttle diplomacy between Israel and Syria to advance the Middle East peace process.

Foreign Minister on Mideast Peace, Iraq, Yemen

BR1805152194 Brussels LE SOIR in French 18 May 94 p 2

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Baudouin Loos in Brussels; date not given: "Concerning Some Problems in the Middle East"]

[Text] [Loos] In Brussels, you have just met your European counterparts as well as the Belgian authorities. The Middle East peacemaking process, which Egypt actively

supports, was one of the issues which you addressed. Do you believe it was the Palestinians who had to make the greatest concessions?

[Musa] I would not speak of "concessions," but I would rather highlight the fact that this was the first step in a long process leading to self-determination for Palestinians. They have now obtained certain territories. We do not think the issue now is to discuss the importance of these territories. The very fact that the Israelis have withdrawn from the territories and that power has been restored directly to the Palestinians, rather than to the Egyptians or the Jordanians, is itself a major political, psychological, and territorial step forward. True, there are limitations and conditions imposed on the Palestinians, because this is only the first step.

[Loos] When PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat refused to sign a document as part of the conclusion of the Israeli-Palestinan agreement, 15 days ago in Cairo, it seems your president, Husni Mubarak, became very angry...

[Musa] I can only say that a last-minute problem did in fact arise. However, 'Arafat had a just claim to put forward at that time, and this point was solved immediately, when (Israeli Prime Minister) Rabin's letter, which had to be attached to the documents, was indeed annexed to the latter. All this can undoubtedly be explained by the long night spent in discussions, just before the agreement was signed. In Cairo, you saw the tip of the iceberg of the kind of problems encountered at every step by the parties engaged in the negotiations.

Jewish Settlements Are Dangerous.

[Loos] Many Palestinians criticize the fact that the agreement does not contemplate putting a stop to Jewish settlements in the territories.

[Musa] This is a very serious issue which must be tackled immediately, and Israel should be advised not to continue to expand the settlements, because such a policy is essentially very dangerous and is harmful to the peace process. I believe this makes sense, and that Israel is aware of it.

[Loos] What is you assessment of the problems encounterd by the PLO in its relations with the World Bank, which is acting as an intermediary between Palestinian autonomy and the donor countries?

[Musa] The problem lies in 'Arafat leading the PLO, considering there is now a territory, and citizens. The objective is to transform a resistance organization into an administration, and it has taken some time to assess the situation. I believe the problems have now been largely overcome.

[Loos] What is your message to the numerous Israelis who reproach Egypt for agreeing only to a "cold peace?"

[Musa] This sort of reproach is the language of the past. We do not understand the term "cold peace." Peace is peace. We have peaceful, normal relations with Israel, which are following their course and developing.

[Loos] Egypt is considered the U.S.' best Arab ally in the region. On the other hand, does your country not view a number of issues rather differently?

[Musa] We do in fact have excellent relations with the United States. However, we do not share the same views on certain problems such as Somalia, Libya, and regional disarmament.

Sanctions: It is up to the Iraqi Leadership

[Loos] What about Iraq?

[Musa] Iraq must comply with the UN resolutions, which it seems to be doing. Also, in order to enter a new era, it must formally renounce any claims on Kuwait and recognize the latter as an independent country, one which cannot live for ever exposed to such a threat.

[Loos] You have said that the sanctions were penalizing the Iraqi people excessively...

[Musa] Everybody knows that, including Iraq's leaders. It is up to them to diminish the suffering, and they know what must be done for this to happen. But it would be a mistake to believe that the world can forget their adventure in Kuwait without a political and legal change taking place. Having said this, I must add that we are prepared to contribute to helping the Iraqi people, as members of the United Nations and the Arab League.

[Loos] What can Egypt do to help extinguish the conflict in Yemen?

[Musa] We asked for a meeting of the Arab League, but things have rapidly developed out of control. We believe the solution must include three aspects: a cease-fire, a withdrawal of troops, and resuming negotiations immediately on the basis of the Amman agreement, which was signed between the two sides on 20 February but never implemented. We are in touch with both sides, but some are hoping for a military victory in the field. It must become clear that war leads nowhere, that the country must remain united, but without resorting to arms, because this would mean long-term instability.

Lawyers Jailed for Inciting Demonstration

NC1805204794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has stated that eight of the lawyers who incited yesterday's demonstration have been arrested upon orders issued by the central Cairo prosecution.

These lawyers include Mukhtar Muhib-al-Din Nuh, Jalal Sa'd 'Uthman, Jamal-al-Din Taj-al-Din Hasan, and Salah 'Abd-al-'Alim Salim all of whom belong to the Muslim Brotherhood; Qamar Muhammad Musa and

Muhammad al-Muntasir Zayyat from al-Jihad; and Muhammad Hamdan Hifni from the leftist groups.

The source said that in the house of lawyer Khalid Muhammad Ahmad Badawi they found some videotapes on the Afghani al-Jihad group. They also found some tracts with lawyer Jamal Taj-al-Din. Some documents that are linked to al-Jihad organization were found with lawyer Muhammad al-Muntasir al-Zayyat.

In another development, the central Cairo prosecution decided to imprison 27 lawyers and 12 others from various professions for a period of 15 days while they are under investigation. They were rounded up yesterday while demonstrating.

The prosecution charged these people with rioting with the intent to harm public authorities and to endanger public security, in addition to the crime of attacking people and squandering funds that were set aside for private and public use.

The prosecution also charged them with rioting with the intention of disturbing general law and order, creating sedition, and spreading propaganda intended to disturb public security. In addition, they will be charged with demonstrating on a public road without a permit and throwing stones at cars in Ramsis and 'Abd-al-Khaliq Tharwat streets with the intention of destroying them.

Interrogation of Detainees Begins

NC1805213094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—The central Cairo prosecution today started interrogation of 10 lawyers who were arrested early this morning for taking part in the events surrounding the march they were planning to hold yesterday, Tuesday.

Among the 10 lawyers, three are members of the Lawyers' Union council. These are Mukhtar Nuh, Khalid Badawi, and Jalal Sa'd.

The central Cairo prosecution had ordered that 39 people—among them 25 lawyers—be imprisoned for 15 days for interrogation.

All those who were arrested have been interrogated about the crimes they are charged with, such as participating in criminal collusion to incite a riot, demonstrate, or organize protests in order to disrupt security and attack some police officers.

Interior Ministry Releases 38 'Extremists'

NC1805155794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Detained extremists who have declared their repentance and given up their extremist ideas were released today. Thirty-eight members of various extremist groups were released. This move came after Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi's decision to implement the Interior Ministry's policy of releasing those detainees who have declare their repentance and recanted their ideas. After leaving the prison of Mazra'at Tura today, those released affirmed to correspondents of international news agencies and newspapers their rejection of extremist ideas. They condemned recent terrorist operations and all extremist ideas. They added that having declared their repentance, they will now campaign for condemnation of extremist ideas. They will warn the youth not to join any group, and tell them to adhere to the teachings of the true religion.

A security source also stated that during the coming days, another batch of repentant extremists will be released.

AL-AHRAM Warns of Middle East 'Arms Race'

NC1905064694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM says Israel and the United States have taken practical steps to implement the F-15E Eagle aircraft deal. The first batch of the advanced aircraft will de delivered to Israel in 1997. The newspaper notes that these fighter planes will enable Israel to reach distant targets, including Iraq and Iran.

In its comment today, AL-AHRAM says this deal has added another dimension to the arms race in the region. It has also provided further proof that Israel and the United States want to maintain their military superiority over the Arabs. In addition, Israel will use this superiority as a bargaining chip in any settlement with the Arab countries.

AL-AHRAM warns that Israel's desire to strengthen its military arsenal might harm the peace process because the other states might find themselves compelled to increase their armament capabilities to achieve a military balance with Israel. All this will lead to an arms race in the region.

Parliamentary Debate Over Arms Mandate Reported

NC1705103294 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 12-18 May 94 p 2

[Report by Jamal 'Isam al-Din: "Arms Mandate Renewed"]

[Text] With 11 deputies objecting, the People's Assembly decided on Sunday to give President Husni Mubarak unrestricted powers for the next three fiscal years to make financial allocations for armament and other military purposes. The decision meant that Mubarak is authorised to conclude military purchases from foreign countries without necessarily making them public.

The president of the republic was first given this mandate in 1972 and it has been renewed periodically since then. With a majority of 380 deputies, the Assembly approved the latest extension on Sunday, authorising Mubarak to "issue law

decrees concerning armament allocations and other allocations for the armed forces... [ellipsis as published] until the end of fiscal year 1996/7".

The objecting deputies, mainly leftists and independents, argued that a further extension was unwarranted because secrecy was no longer possible in today's world. They stressed that their objection should not be misconstrued as objection to Mubarak's person.

Speaking for the government, Kamal al-Shadhili, minister of state for the People's Assembly affairs, said the extension is necessary in order to keep the armed forces strong in peace as well as in war. He argued that secrecy was essential for concluding military purchases, noting that the extension of the law comes at a time when the region is rife with military confrontations. "Yesterday, there was fighting in Yemen and earlier there were hostilities in the Gulf," he said.

Jamal al-Sayyid, a former minister of military production, also defended the extension as necessary. He said it came at a time of an international embargo on the purchase of some weapons and military equipment, making secrecy a prerequisite of any military transaction. "We all know that Mubarak is an honest man and worthy of trust," he said.

From the opposing camp, Lutfi Wakid, one of the 1952 revolution's "free officers" and deputy chairman of the left-wing Tagammu Party, said his objection should not be interpreted as an indication of disrespect for the president or for the armed forces. He said the law was necessary before the 1973 October War because military purchases had to be kept a closely guarded secret. But now, he said, the world has changed and secrecy is no longer possible.

"The world's largest military supplier, the United States, now reveals its military deals in Congress and so do Britain and France, and most deals are published by specialised magazines." Wakid said it was more honourable for the government and the armed forces to publicise their military deals, instead of allowing opponents to cast doubts on their actions.

The strongest criticism was made by independent Fikri al-Jazzar who said the extension amounted to a "rape of legislative authority". Although al-Jazzar said his objection did not mean that he questioned the president's integrity, he recalled that Article 108 of the Constitution states that the president should be vested with this authority only in exceptional cases. Moreover, he said, the article calls on the president to submit to the Assembly reports on the types of deals, decisions and agreements he concluded in this respect. "Has the Assembly received any reports of this kind?" al- Jazzar asked, adding that for the purpose of secrecy a committee should be formed and entrusted with informing the Assembly of these matters.

Al-Jazzar argued that the current armed confrontations in the Arab world have nothing to do with Egypt and should not be cited to justify the extension. "We did nothing to [stop] the fighting in Yemen, for example, and consequently this extension is not well-justified," he said. A report by the Assembly's defence and national security committee said that vesting the president with this authority was "for the purpose of dealing with the circumstances through which the Arab region is passing."

The report said, "Egypt carries the burden of those events which influence the security and stability of the entire region and which reflect on Egypt's own security and national interests. This may prompt Egypt to conclude agreements with the aim of acquiring weapons and military equipment and aid. There is no doubt that these agreements need quick ratification. The allocations for armament and other allocations necessary for the armed forces also require quick decisions, in view of their secret nature and their importance to national security and also in view of their linkage to the political relations between states..." [ellipses as published]

Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Visits Cairo

Received by Sidqi

NC1505154494 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi today received at his office Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh and his delegation, who are currently visiting Cairo. During the meeting, they discussed means of bolstering cooperation between Egypt and Vietnam in various fields, especially agriculture.

Prime Minister Sidqi announced that he discussed with the Vietnamese side how to improve economic, trade, and cultural relations between the two countries. Dr. Sidqi added that an agreement in principle will be signed to bolster this cooperation in the future between Egypt and Vietnam.

Reviews Trade Accord With Mubarak

NC1605101494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh in the Presidential Office this morning.

Dr. Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation, attended the meeting. He said the two reviewed the trade accord signed between the two countries during the Vietnamese delegation's visit to develop bilateral trade ties.

Departs After Four-Day Visit

NC1605205994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 16 May (MENA)—Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Khanh and his delegation left Cairo this evening at the end of a four-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

The delegation also met with Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Yusuf Wali for discussions on issues of mutual interest.

A trade agreement boosting bilateral relations was also signed during the visit.

Morocco

King Hassan Urges Return of Rights to Jerusalem

LD1805170794 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Today the Islamic nation is celebrating Jerusalem Day according the Jerusalem Committee's resolution, issued at its meeting in Fez on 19-20 April 1984 under the chairmanship of His Majesty King Hassan II, God make him victorious, the chairman of the Committee.

Today is an occasion for more than 1 billion Muslims throughout the world to renew their insistence on the Arabic character of this holy city, despite the Zionist practices to obliterate its Arab and Islamic features.

King Hassan II, the chairman of Jerusalem Committee, had emphasized during one the Committee's sessions that we should use all our human and material strength and potential to up hold the word of right and to persuade those who know and those who do not or who are pretending not to know that our rights should be returned as soon as possible.

This gracious royal invitation to return the right to its legitimate owners reflects the effort made and being made to support the issues of Islam and the Muslims.

While commemoration of Jerusalem Day is coinciding this year with the peace process in the Middle East, and especially in the land of Palestine where the Palestinian authority has assumed its duties in the self-rule areas, what has been achieved represents only one step of many that are required to be made on the path of achieving a just and comprehensive peace.

No doubt Jerusalem will remain the core issue in any settlement in the area, and the question of recovering it will remain a joint nationalist and Islamic preoccupation. It will remain the objective toward which the Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim generations will aspire.

Sudan

Al-Bashir on Juba, Nairobi Peace Talks, Yemen Events

EA1805170594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has hailed the Juba declaration issued by the forces of peace, who are currently meeting in Juba. He said the meeting was historic for Sudan in general and for the south in particular. The meeting had made positive progress on the path toward peace and national unity. He said this during his regular meeting today with media leaders at the secretariat general of the Council of Ministers.

Referring to the Nairobi peace talks, which began today under the auspices of the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] states, his excellency the president said the talks were opening despite attempts to abort them by the rebels. He said the rebellion had hoped to abort the talks, in order to encourage foreign intervention in support of its position. Lt. Gen. 'Umar al- Bashir said he hoped the signing of the relief agreement between the government and the rebels yesterday would pave the way for relief to pour in to rescue those in need in the south.

During his meeting with the media leaders, the president of the Republic also reiterated Sudan's firm stance on the situation in Yemen. He said Sudan supported Yemen's unity and was wholly opposed to those undermining stability and unity in fraternal Yemen. The leader of the revolution appealed to the two conflicting sides in Yemen to resort to dialogue as a way of solving the dispute and overcoming the current situation. He said that Sudan would not intervene in the Yemeni conflict, and that it did not favor either party over the other. What concerned Sudan was the resolution of the conflict between brothers, who should seek a solution through Yemeni constitutional institutions to resolve the current situation.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Envoy of al-Bid

LD1705113394 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 May 94

[Excerpt] At 1215 [local time] this afternoon the amir of Kuwait received Salih Abu-Bakr Bin-Husaynun, Yemeni minister of oil and mineral resources and envoy of 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of Yemen's Presidential Council. The envoy briefed the amir on the critical situation in Yemen and the sad developments and painful events there.

The amir expressed Kuwait's deep sorrow for the bloodshed, the killing, and the waste of resources in Yemen. The amir clearly stated Kuwait's continuing stance of rejecting any use of force in settling conflicts. He said that national duty required an immediate cease-fire and the start of negotiations to discuss in a true spirit of brotherhood all differences in order to spare the Yemeni people from the tragedies of fighting and bloodshed.

The amir of Kuwait stressed that dialogue is the way to understanding and reconciliation and that Kuwait, which strongly believes in principles of brotherhood and spares no efforts to spread these principles, categorically rejects the use of force to solve conflicts. The amir expressed the wish that the officials in Yemen would take seriously the genuine calls for an immediate halt to the fighting and for an agreement to end the differences peacefully. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Basindwah Ends Visit to Qatar, Returns Home

JN1805181794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, today received Yemeni Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah, who conveyed a message to his highness from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, dealing with the situation in our country, issues of mutual interest, and the close relations between the two fraternal countries.

The Qatari News Agency said that Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani had regretted the human and material losses in Yemen, pointed out that what is taking place in Yemen is an internal affair, and stressed that the events will end in a manner that will preserve Yemen's unity and historic achievements and will restore Yemen's security and stability. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah, heir apparent and defense minister, Shaykh Hamad Bin- Jasim, minister of foreign affairs, and brother 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Jahhaf, our country's ambassador to the fraternal State of Qatar.

Foreign Minister brother Muhammad Salim Basindwah returned to Sanaa after working visits to Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar that lasted several days.

In a statement to SABA', the foreign minister said that during his tour, he conveyed letters from Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to his brothers the leaders and kings of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Qatar, explaining that the letters concerned the latest developments in the situation in Yemen, as well as bilateral issues of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

Security Forces Monitor Iran's Hajj Headquarters

Activity at Headquarters Said Controlled

LD1805103094 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Our correspondent in Holy Mecca reported a few moments ago that the esteemed leader's Hajj headquarters is still surrounded by the Saudi police force. We draw your attention to this report:

[Unidentified correspondent] Today, the Saudi soldiers deployed special commandoes outside the headquarters gate to prevent headquarters staff and other visitors from entering. Thanks to implementation of this order, staff of the esteemed leader's Hajj headquarters have been compelled to remain inside the building.

The Saudi police, after hours of controlling the comings and goings and preventing the arrival and exit of individuals from the headquarters, permitted individuals to come and go for a few hours at 1930 hours local time yesterday evening. Movement in and out of the headquarters was banned again at midday today. Saudi military helicopters also resumed reconnaissance flights and air maneuvers over the headquarters building starting at midday today. The Saudi security officials are videotaping the esteemed leader's headquarters and anybody coming in or going out.

Iranian Embassy Protests 'Siege'

LD1805142894 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Mecca, May 18, IRNA—Iran's embassy in Riyadh in a strongly-worded letter to the Saudi Foreign Ministry Wednesday [18 May] condemned the continued siege of the Iranian pilgrims headquarters in Mecca by Saudi troops. The letter said the crackdown on the movement of Iranian pilgrims to and from the camp has seriously hampered the pilgrimage of Iranian Muslims.

Saudi commandos have been stationed in front of the headquarters barring people from entering or leaving the building. Since this morning, Saudi military helicopters have started flying at low altitude over the headquarters and filming all movements around it.

The deployment of scores of armored personnel carriers, water cannons and a large number of armed-to-the-teeth commandos around the camp indicates that Saudi Arabia has purchased large amounts of riot equipment for fear of outbreak of domestic unrest and rebellion.

According to an Egyptian pilgrim, who is a member of the armed forces of that country, Saudi Arabia has been deeply worried about possible domestic unrest in recent years particularly since the deployment of American forces in holy Islamic lands during the Persian Gulf war which prompted public outcry.

Due to such concern, he said, Saudi leaders have spent billions of dollars on purchase of anti-riot equipment and training some of its military units in suppressing domestic riots.

'Siege' Ends in Mecca

LD1805205794 Tehran IRNA in English 2037 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Holy Mecca, May 19, IRNA—The siege of the Iranian pilgrim headquarters here by the Saudi security forces ended at 22:00 hours Wednesday [18 May].

A very big column of all types of armoured vehicles had covered the area and al-'Aziz street in order to prevent the holding of the annual disavowal of polytheists rally by Iranian and other pilgrims.

Over the past week Saudi police had harrassed the pilgrims and visitors to the HQ.

The besiege was severely condemned by Iranian and other pilgrims, and the Saudi measure has given rise to widespread reaction.

On Monday night, the leader of the Iranian pilgrims, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri announced the cancellation of the rally, in order not to give an excuse to the Saudi police to once again desecrate the sanctity of the most inviolable sanctuary the Holy Ka'ba.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid, al-Bid Exchange Views on Crisis

JN1905103894 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, United Arab Emirates [UAE] President, last night received a phone call from 'Ali Salim al-Bid, vice chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, within the framework of the ongoing contacts and the intensive efforts his highness exerts with respect to the Yemeni crisis.

Discussion during the telephone contact dealt with the situation in the Yemeni arena. Shaykh Zayid reiterated the UAE's pressing desire for a cease-fire, pointing out that it is regrettable that Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih still insists on pursuing the fighting in spite of the recurrent sincere calls his highness has addressed to his excellency since the very first moment of the war of brothers. His highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan further said during the telephone contact: I have repeatedly appealed to the Yemeni president. I have exerted all possible effort to immediately stop firing. We have said we are ready to pursue mediation efforts in Yemen with every means we have to sincerely and loyally reconcile the brothers so Yemen remains stable and so differences among them will be submitted to the fraternal Yemeni people whom will decide on them and have their final say, instead of this recourse to arms. The Yemeni people are a free people like all others, and their fate does not belong to anyone.

He added: The Yemeni people know where their real interest lies and their happiness and stability are the objectives that all should seek.

From his part, the Yemeni vice president called on the head of state in the telephone contact to pursue with his well-known wisdom his persistent efforts with his brother Arab leaders to stop the raging battles and the bloody war and to resort to fraternal dialogue to reach a political solution to the crisis out of concern for the safety of Yemeni citizens and to safeguard national unity.

The Yemeni vice chairman added: Why this shedding of blood and the fighting among the sons of the one people for one or two persons? Has the aggression against the south come from an enemy of the Yemeni people? It is inconceivable that a dialogue be held between the two parties while the fighting continues. No side can be attacked and remain idle and accept the imposition of a solution on it. The language of force and the military method in settling differences is rejected and portends dire consequences. The homeland's interest should be given priority over any other interest.

Shaykh Zayid Receives Salih's Envoy, Message

JN1505101094 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 15 May 94

[Excerpt] The President, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, has received a message from His Excellency 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Presidential Council, dealing with the latest developments in Yemen. The message was conveyed to the president by Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah who met with the president at the presidential office today.

President Zayid again called for an end to the internecine fighting and for preserving Yemen and the Yemeni people's achievements. He appealed to the Yemeni people to stop the bloodshed and seek the language of reason and dialogue to serve Yemen and its people. [passage omitted]

Receives Phone Call From Salih

JN1805062394 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received a telephone call from Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih this evening.

The Emirates News Agency said views were exchanged on the current developments in Yemen and the bloody fighting between brothers. It added that Shaykh Zayid stressed the urgent need to stop Yemeni fighting in order to pave the way for the continuation of his highness's efforts to reconcile the Yemeni brothers' views.

The UAE president appealed to the Yemeni president to do his best to put an immediate end to fighting and to exercise maximum self-restraint in order to spare blood and safeguard the people's lives. He said there will be no victor or vanquished among the sons of the one country and that the real loser will be the Yemeni people, who will suffer from the destruction inflicted on them.

Shaykh Zayid regretted what is happening as well as the Yemeni president's failure to respond to the repeated calls to stop the fighting, stressing that what is taking place is a disaster for Yemen and the Arab nation.

Yemen

Fighting Reported Nearing Aden; Foreigners Crowd Port

NC1805111794 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Aden, May 18 (AFP)—This southern bastion echoed to the thunder of artillery on Wednesday [18 May] as fighting between rival Yemeni forces moved markedly closer, an AFP correspondent reported.

It was the first time the sound of battle could be heard so clearly in the port city of Aden, stronghold of Vice-President 'Ali Salim al-Bid, whose forces are fighting off a northern offensive.

And it triggered fear among the population of 500,000, who had been reassured only the night before that the southerners were keeping the offensive at bay.

Remaining foreigners crowded the port trying to board an Indian and a Pakistani ship which were due to set sail. Nearly 280 Indians were scheduled to leave during the day, a port official said.

Northern troops, loyal to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, are locked in a bitter struggle with al-Bid's forces at al-'Anad, a strategically important air base 50 kilometers (30 miles) to the north of Aden.

There also fighting at Zinjibar, to the east, and Haraz, to the west.

Artillery fire could be heard near the city on Wednesday to both the north and east.

Al-Bid's Yemeni Socialist Party has stepped up conscription, taking thousands of youths to the front, willingly or not, aboard party vehicles that were criss-crossing the city.

Salih has rejected international appeals for a ceasefire and insists that al-Bid and his aids surrender or flee into exile.

The civil war was about to enter its third week with no end in sight.

It has shattered the uneasy four-year old union between the conservative North and Marxist South.

Salih Visits Armed Forces Camp, Addresses Soldiers

JN1805125494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, today visited the al-Sab'in Camp. He was received by the camp's commander, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers. He addressed them, expressing his happiness at meeting with them and reviewing the current situation in our country at this critical stage in its history, during which our Yemeni people and their Armed Forces—the forces of unity and legitimacy—are waging a valiant struggle for the sake of defending the homeland and preserving its unity and the accomplishments of the revolution, for which they have offered the dearest of sacrifices.

The brother president and supreme commander of the Armed Forces said: This fighting, which was imposed on our people and Armed Forces by the gang of apostasy and secession in the Socialist Party leadership, has made it incumbent on the masses of our people, headed by our Armed Forces—the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy—to rise in defense of the dearest of their national aims and confront the remnants of apostasy and secession, who sold their consciences, and abandoned the values of belonging to this homeland and their loyalty to its martyrs who shed their blood for the sake of the unity of the homeland—land and people.

The brother supreme commander of the Armed Forces praised the high morale of the officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of our Armed Forces—the forces of unity and legitimacy. He greeted this high militant spirit and the splendid combat performance as

embodied by the heroes in the arenas of national struggle in defense of the gains of the Yemeni revolution and people.

In his speech, the brother president invoked mercy on the souls of martyrs, who sacrificed their lives so the banner of unity and Republic of Yemen will continue to fly as high as the mountains of Yemen and as solid as the solidity of its blessed, brave sons. He stressed that the state will look after the families and children of martyrs and will extend to them all good care and sound education. He stressed the importance of maintaining discipline and vigilance and care for the people's interests. He said officers, noncommissioned, and soldiers in the battle should set an example to others with good conduct, high discipline, and the sense of responsibility and the noble mission they are performing for the sake of the people, homeland, and unity.

Brother Brigadier General Yahya al-Mutawakkil, minister of the interior, accompanied the brother chairman of the Presidential Council.

BBC Correspondent Cited on Fall of al-'Anad Base

JN1905054994 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] A number of foreign correspondents yesterday visited al-'Anad Base and viewed the fortifications and military equipment and vehicles captured by the forces of Constitutional legitimacy when they took control of the base the day before yesterday.

BBC radio correspondent (Simon Angerma), who visited the base, said in a report aired by the radio today that he saw some tanks of the forces of legitimacy deployed within the perimeter of the base. He also noted that the antiaircraft guns repulsed several air raids launched by aircraft of the forces of apostasy and secession over the area and forced them to flee.

The BBC correspondent added that a large number of the rebel troops withdrew from the base. He also said he saw the wreckage of a helicopter downed near the base entrance and the charred corpses of the two pilots.

Aden Radio Denies Fall of al-'Anad

EA1805225294 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Yes, brother listeners, both at home and abroad: This is the truth that refutes the inventions of the al-Ahmar clan and its lying media, the truth which makes plain that the al-'Anad base will remain steadfast and will not be contaminated by the feet of the soldiers of the oppressive al-Ahmar family. Greetings to our heroes of our Armed Forces of unity, democracy and national modernization which have shown such heroism in defeating and pursuing the (?defeated) remnants of the traitorous al-Ahmar family.

Sanaa Military Source on Progress of Operations

JN1805211194 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 94

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Defense; place and date not given]

[Text] With the help of Almighty God, with the bravery of the heroes of the Armed Forces, and with the cohesion of all the sons of the people with them, the forces protecting the unity and Constitutional legitimacy are continuing to carry out their combat duties against the gangs of the forces of renegade, rebellion, and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party. Their wrong actions surrounded them and, therefore, they must be defeated and must bow to the people's will and their strike force on all axes and sectors.

On the Abyan-Aden axis, fighting is continuing in several directions, and the forces of renegade and secession are trying to send innocent people to certain death to merely gain time, show empty arrogance, and entertain themselves with destruction, after the units of the Armed Forces—the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy—tightened the siege [words indistinct] and are continuing to follow their targets with patience and accuracy, taking into account the circumstances in the fields of confrontation on this axis. All the feverish air and naval attacks have failed, and the forces of renegade and secession sustained double losses as a result of the lack of control of the collapsing and domineering [words indistinct], their dark and ominous fate. The brave men in the air defenses confronted the aircraft of the forces of renegade and secession and managed to down two aircraft, and the hostile attacks did not cause any losses.

On the Shabwah axis, the heroes in the units of the Armed Forces are continuing to carry out the duties assigned to them, and they made great progress in carrying out their missions after they managed to control the (?Sab) District as a result of the great cooperation by the brother citizens, who moved to shoulder their responsibility along with their forces—the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy. The Armed Forces received [words indistinct] a complete battalion of the (?Hnayshan) Brigade, as well as the [word indistinct] forces in the (?Nisab) District [words indistinct], which declared their joining the forces of unity and constitutional forces, rejected the conspiracy of secession and the plan of renegade and rebellion, and condemned the sinful secessionist elements for what they did against the people, the homeland, and the Armed Forces and security.

On the al-'Anad-al-Hawtah axis, the heroes in our Armed Forces are continuing their progress to carry out the remaining combat duties on that axis. In this sector, 22 missile bases were seized. The brave heroes in the brave Air Force continued to carry out the duties assigned to them with success and effectiveness. All aircraft returned safely to their bases. With the continued progress of the forces of unity and Constitutional

legitimacy to confront the remaining forces of renegade and secession, out of concern about people's lives, and to avoid the continuation of the fighting, whose result is considered decided in favor of the forces of the people, the unity, and democracy, we renew our call on all officers, noncommissioned officers, and the soldiers, who are still under the control of the sinful secessionist forces to leave the positions of hostility and come to unity and the people and to join the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy, which is the place of every officer, noncommissioned officer, and soldier in the Armed Forces. They will find every understanding of their situation and the circumstances that forced them to be [words indistinct] under the banner of the Yemeni unity.

The fate of the forces of wrong, deviation, secession, partition, and destruction is known. [words indistinct]

[Signed] The Defense Ministry

Further on Progress of Operations

JN1905063494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 19 May 94

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Defense in Sanaa; date not given]

[Text] With the help of almighty God, with the bravery of the heroes of the Armed Forces, and with the cohesion of all the sons of the people with them, the forces protecting unity and Constitutional legitimacy are continuing to carry out their combat duties against the gangs of the forces of renegade, rebellion, and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party. Their wrong actions surround them and, therefore, they must be defeated and must bow to the people's will and their strike force on all axes and sectors.

On the Abyan-Aden axis, fighting is continuing in several directions, and the forces of renegade and secession are trying to send innocent people to certain death to merely gain time, show empty arrogance, and entertain themselves with destruction, after the units of the Armed Forces—the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy—tightened the siege and closed all outlets, and continue to pursue their targets with patience and accuracy, taking into account the circumstances in the fields of confrontation on this axis. All the feverish air and naval attacks have failed. The forces of apostasy and secession sustained heavy losses as a result of the lack of control of the collapsing and domineering forces that can think only of their dark and ominous fate. The brave men in the air defenses confronted the aircraft of the forces of apostasy and secession, downing two aircraft. The hostile air attacks did not cause any losses.

On the Shabwah axis, the heroes in the units of the Armed Forces are continuing to carry out the duties assigned to them, and they made great progress in carrying out their missions after they managed to control the Nisab District as a result of the great cooperation by the brother citizens, who rushed to shoulder their responsibility along with their forces—the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy. The Armed Forces have warmly welcomed a complete battalion of the Hunayshan Brigade, as well as the members of the police force in the Nisab District, with all their weapons and military hardware. They declared they were joining the forces of unity and constitutional legitimnacy, rejected the conspiracy of secession and the plan of renegade and rebellion, and condemned the sinful secessionist elements for what they did to the people, the homeland, and the Armed Forces and security.

On the al-'Anad-al-Hawtah axis, the heroes in our Armed Forces are continuing their progress to carry out the remaining combat duties on that axis. In this sector, 22 Katyusha bases were seized. The brave heroes in the brave Air Force continued to carry out the duties assigned to them with success and effectiveness. All aircraft returned safely to their bases.

With the continued progress of the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy to confront the remaining forces of apostasy and secession, out of concern about people's lives, and to avoid the continuation of the fighting, whose result is considered as decided in advance in favor of the forces of the people, unity, and democracy, we renew our call to all officers, noncommissioned officers, and the soldiers who are still under the control of the sinful secessionist forces to leave the positions of hostility to join unity, the people, and the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy. This is the place for every officer, noncommissioned officer, and soldier in the Armed Forces. They will find complete understanding of their situation and the circumstances that forced them to be in secessionist rebel ranks. They will get all the attention, care, and status they deserve under the banner of the glorious Republic of Yemen.

As for the forces of error and darkness, the forces of secession, fragmentation, and destruction, their fate is known because the wrath of justice will inevitably reach them. As God has said: And say: 'Truth has now arrived, and falsehood perished: for falsehood is by its nature bound to perish. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Defense Ministry, Sanaa

Aden Denies Military Claims by Northern Forces

EA1805194394 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 18 May 94

[Military statement No. 22, issued by the Ministry of Defense; place and date not given]

[Text] For the 22d consecutive day our brave forces continued their heroic resistance [words indistinct] and with an unyielding and uncrushable will to the human shields and the barbaric war machine which the criminal gang of the al-Ahmar family has plunged toward the former [word indistinct] border regions.

The comeback actions which our defending forces have reached last night and today morning in the orientation of Karish, al-Dali and Abyan were characterized by the decisiveness and the [word indistinct] and strong defense on all fighting fronts. Meanwhile, the hostile forces continued their retreat and surrender. In Karish front-line more than 1,500 officers and soldiers from the forces which the gang of the al-Ahmar family has plunged in this direction surrendered themselves to our forces yesterday, on the one hand after their strength was exhausted and on the other after they discovered how false were the claims of legality which this treacherous and [word indistinct] gang gives a big-mouthed talk about it.

On another level, our hero citizens in Radfan District were able to destroy a number of tanks which tried to sneak toward al-Habilayn. With close struggle and coherence with the citizens and volunteers who came from various governorates, our brave forces continued chasing the remnants of the forces of the al-Ahmar family in all directions.

The Ministry of Defense, which feels [word indistinct] confident of the ability of our courageous Armed Forces, supported materially and morally by the masses of dignified people of inflicting defeat following defeat on the gang of treachery and treason, would like to affirm to the masses of our people and the Arab and world public opinion that there is not even a grain of truth in the allegations and claims fabricated by the information sections of the bloody gang of the al-Ahmar family, which the listeners were told about illusionary victories in this (?connotation). Our forces, which foiled all the attempts of the forces of the al-Ahmar family and stopped their attempts after inflicting (?total flight) to them, are also able of coming forward decisively and [word indistinct] and strong defense and inflicting decisive punishments on the adventurist aggressions anywhere.

North Accused of Using 'Human Shields'

EA1805200094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] A military statement issued by the Ministry of Defense mentioned that the assassin 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih plunged the day before yesterday big numbers of barbaric forces and quantities of his miltiary equipment in a desperate attempt to break through the fortified defense lines of our Armed Forces, standing with the masses of our people against the freedom and dignity [as heard]. This was preceded by false statements, such as the statements of al- Ansi and al-Iryani. And in front of these barbarous forces, from the helpless they presented human shields to the cemetery of death. The statement mentioned that our Armed Forces have come forward against taking shelter by the fighters in the cities and villages and making the citizens from the sons of our people human shields facing the weapons of destruction and killing.

We, in the name of the Yemeni people in every place, demand the immediate stopping of this foolish fighting, and we remind all that we are in the month of war-prohibition in the Hijriyyah [Islamic] calendar, in which almighty God prohibited fighting in them. We are even in the first 10 days of the month of Dhu'l-hijjah. What law except the law of the jungle allows this, and where are those insisting on fighting from Islam. It is rejected teaching and in Shari'ah, we in the name of the Yemeni people appeal to all Arab and Islamic countries and organizations to stand with us in calling on the fighters to cease fire, especially during the days of pilgrimage and the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

YSP Reportedly Fires Missile on Ta'izz

JN1905043494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] A military source has explained to the Yemeni News Agency, SABA' that in a desperate, hysterical, and cowardly attempt the gang of apostasy and secession in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] fired a missile on Ta'izz at 2030 yesterday, targetting defenseless citizens. But God's providence ordained that this missile fall on Sadr Mountain.

The source said no human losses were sustained, but that children, women, and elderly people in the city and the nearby villages were scared and there were some cracks in the houses of the citizens from the explosion of the missile.

Al-Bid on Determination To Confront 'Aggressors'

NC1805191594 London MBC Television in Arabic 1810 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Yemeni Vice President 'Ali Salim al-Bid has affirmed that Aden will not fall to the northerners. In an exclusive telephone interview with MBC's Tawfiq Jazulit, al-Bid did not rule out the possibility of secession from the north, but he left the final decision up to the competent bodies in the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] and the national forces. Jazulit's asked him:

[Begin recording] [Jazulit] Mr. Vice President, the YSP and the Yemeni oppositionists have set up a National Salvation Council instead of a national salvation government, as was previously suggested. What is the significance of setting up this council?

[Al-Bid] I believe that this is not the issue at the moment. The issue we are dealing with now is how to ensure that there is increasing steadfastness. We hope that by the time 'Id al-Adha comes, the ferocity of the battles will have abated. If there is talk about salvation, it is an issue that concerns the other parties and political forces joining with us. We have reached an agreement with them on the principles for national salvation.

[Jazulit] What is the truth about al-'Anad? Sanaa insists it is in their hands, and proof of this is that it has sent

some correspondents to the region; but you deny it. What is the real military situation in al-'Anad?

[Al-Bid] As I have repeated to you, al-'Anad is unyielding. Al-'Anad will not fall, nor will our values, courage, and ability to confront the aggressors. I assure you they will be forced to retreat.

[Jazulit] The fighting continues in the absence of Arab mediation, although there are extremely important political developments in Aden. Does this mean that events are heading toward secession?

[Al-Bid] I do not know what the final solution will be, because I cannot determine this alone. But I can tell you that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih declared his secession on 27 April by declaring war. Now, after these massacres and sacrifices, I do not know how we could patch things up or what stand we will take. However, we will see what is best for Yemen.

[Jazulit] Will secession be one of the major alternatives of the YSP and the opposition in light of the intensity of the fighting?

[Al-Bid] We will do what the majority of the political forces and parties with whom we have reached agreements decide. We will follow the final formula we believe will be most suitable for running the affairs of our citizens. I tell those who are literally pushed to the battle front—they have now moved all the battles to the southern and eastern governorates—that the acts that some innocent people are being forced to do against their will is criminal, and it must stop. We call on all Yemenis, nationalists, and honest people in Yemen and abroad to put an end to this massacre that is taking place in the country. [end recording]

YSP Official Views Causes of Conflict, Iraqi Role

JN1805185994 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 17 May 94 p 32

[Interview with Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Yemeni Presidential Council and assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party, by Muhammad Karkuti in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Karkuti] The Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] has put forward an eight-point peace plan that was rejected by Sanaa. How do you assess Arab reaction to this initiative? Note that the initiative was proposed during a visit of an Arab League delegation to Sanaa, so what was the Arab League's reaction to this initiative?

[Muhammad] Arab and world media have reflected complete sympathy with the stand of our party and leadership toward this peaceful initiative, whether before or during the war. We are now defending our honor, property, homes, cities, and villages. We have not been on the offensive yet. We are against war. We support dialogue. We have exercised a policy of self-restraint, because over the past three years we had seen many practices, such as assassinations and liquidations of our party's leaders. All this did not make us lose patience or lose our mind. We have worked, and we are still calling for dialogue as the only language between the parties that have a different view of the complex Yemeni situation. [passage omitted]

[Karkuti] To say that the current crisis, which is tearing Yemen apart, is the result of foreign intervention is extremely doubtful. However, the tragic developments of the crisis make us reconsider the validity of this view. What is your personal opinion? If there are foreign and behind-the-scene forces working to ignite the crisis, who are these forces and what do they want?

[Muhammad] Yemen is not an isolated island. As you know, it is part of the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab world. What is happening now proceeds from two plans: a tribal plan, supported by an international fundamentalist movement, which is now trying to establish its state in Yemen; and another plan to establish an Arab Islamic state in this region that will have ideal and natural relations with Saudi Arabia, Oman, and the other Gulf states and the world. This plan will seek to develop Yemen according to the mentality of the late twentieth century and the beginning of the next century. There are people who waver between these two stands. This is why Yemen is today at a crossroads.

Therefore, it is not strange that Sudan should be supporting this latter scheme. Also, the religious fundamentalist movement is involved in supporting this trend and in removing all obstacles that arose as a result of unity and democracy to pave the way for this plan. Alliances will therefore depend on who supports and who allows this plan and who supports the other plan. As for the statements and attempts to win the favor of this or that party, they are all propaganda as a result of the hot military and political battle.

[Karkuti] Is it true that Iraq is playing a role in Yemen?

[Muhammad] The supplies we saw in the battles were originally there in preparation for the recent Gulf war. We had expected this. This also was clear in the weapons the northern troops have. Iraqi delegations came before and during the war. This is also clear in the training and expertise. Consider also Iraq's attitude at the Arab League, which gives a true picture that Iraq, which should abandon this policy, is involved in supporting the military option in Yemen. It is enough to note the Iraqi Ba'th Party National Command statement that reflects its support for the military option that seeks war.

[Karkuti] How true are the reports that there are Iraqis with the northern forces?

[Muhammad] Yes, there are Iraqi experts with the Republican Guard. There are also Iraqi experts with the northern brigades. [passage omitted]

[Karkuti] What about the victims of the war. Do you have any figures?

[Muhammad] They are very huge and terrifying figures. They try to hide the figures from the public and the outside world. Entire brigades have been destroyed. Since they are attacking, then they must have sustained major losses, but they are hiding these facts. There are also huge losses among civilians, whether in al-Dali', Kirsh, Abyan, Mukayras, and also huge losses in Sanaa and 'Imran. There are social and economic damages known only to God alone. [passage omitted]

[Karkuti] What is the military situation now on the battlefield?

[Muhammad] The situation keeps changing. They are attacking in the Kirsh region and their attacks are being repulsed. There are also fierce battles in al-Dali'. They started another battle in Bayhan in Shabwah. This is in addition to the battles in Abyan. [passage omitted]

Former South Yemen President Views Crisis [Cairo Radio]

NC1505070894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 15 May 94

[Telephone interview with former South Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad in Damascus, by Shadiyah Riyad in Cairo; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Riyad] Mr. Muhammad, a real catastrophe may be threatening not only fraternal Yemen but also the entire Arab region. What are your views on how to avoid this disaster?

[Muhammad] First, it pleases me to address the Arab people on the Cairo Radio. I would like to greet the fraternal Egyptian people and their leadership. I salute President Husni Mubarak, who has stood by the Yemeni people from the beginning of the crisis. He has actively made telephone calls and held meetings to contain the crisis that threatens national unity, security, and stability in Yemen and the security and stability of the region. Yemen is a littoral country on the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea, and so our country affects and is affected by what takes place around us in the region. In my view, the problem in Yemen is the responsibility of our brothers and friends. I am making efforts to help Yemen overcome this ordeal.

[Riyad] You say that the brothers and friends should shoulder their responsibilities. You met in Damascus with a number of envoys from Sanaa and Aden; do you sense that they are ready to accept Arab mediation efforts to address the crisis?

[Muhammad] In fact, the efforts by brothers and friends have not ceased; they are continuing. However, frankly speaking, what has happened and is happening in Yemen is the responsibility of the brothers there. The meeting of the Yemeni leaders in Amman and the signing of the Pledge and Accord Document there, their meeting in Salalah, and other meetings provided opportunities for direct dialogue between the political leaders in Yemen. Regrettably, numerous Arab and international overtures clashed with certain positions, prompting certain Arab leaders to balk.

Personally, I played a humble role last year and this year by making certain overtures and proposals to contain the crisis. Regrettably, my proposals and overtures contradicted certain positions, and thus failed. I acted out of my concern for the security and stability in Yemen and the region. I am following up on my efforts with my brothers and envoys, both in Yemen and abroad. I am following developments and am concerned to stop the bloodshed and halt the deterioration and collapse in Yemen.

[Riyad] Does this mean that there are mediation efforts by the Yemeni sons to address this crisis?

[Muhammad] As I noted, I already put forward certain overtures. I think that if the brothers there had responded to my overtures, they might have borne fruit and led to a relaxation of the situation. I held contacts a week ago with a number of Yemeni figures who are concerned about stability and want to contain the crisis in Yemen. They responded positively and welcomed my overture and the proposal to hold a meeting. They also welcome my readiness to go to Yemen.

I am holding contacts with the Yemeni leadership. If the Yemeni leadership and figures in the Arab homeland and outside agree, I am ready to go to Sanaa and Aden to help the Yemeni leadership contain the crisis, because the danger threatens everyone inside and outside Yemen and even the region and the Arab nation. Unity is not the exclusive province of the two Yemeni parties nor of certain individuals. Yemeni unity concerns all Yemeni people, for they and the Arab nation, particularly Egypt, made sacrifices for it. I consider that Yemeni unity is the fruit of the struggle by the Yemeni people, in both north and south.

[Riyad] Mr. Muhammad, as you said, unity was the result of all the Yemeni people's struggle. But what is the future of this unity since the break caused by the war between the two sides? Can it be maintained when weapons are being used?

[Muhammad] I do not keep my view secret; very frankly, I support unity. I have said that I am opposed to fighting and to secession. The bloody events inflicted on the Yemeni people and their gains, on the army, the economy, and the citizens' morale could leave a deep rift in the people and in Yemen's unity. But there is no alternative. As for secession, Yemen cannot revert back to the 1990 borders, the year when unity was established. I have said this repeatedly and on several occasions, even to officials. I met yesterday with [name indistinct], who used to be foreign minister, and told him that it is impossible to go back to the 1990 borders. If Yemen is partitioned, then possibly more than one state and more

than one entity will be established, and a series of conflicts and wars will break out between these entities in Yemen. This could affect Yemen's future.

[Riyad] Do you believe that dialogue is still possible?

[Muhammad] There is no other path than that of the dialogue. The doors to dialogue remain open amid all the wars that happen in the world. There are in fact bloody and painful battles today, but there is no path other than dialogue. Continuing the war means the complete destruction of everything. That is why I underlined the need to go back to the dialogue and to persist with it in order to stop the shedding of blood and to protect Yemeni national unity.

[Riyad] Do you think that the two sides are willing to stop the fighting and bloodshed?

[Muhammad] Everyone talks about going back to the dialogue, about a cease-fire and a disengagement. Everyone is talking, but the battles are in fact still raging even while I am talking to you. This is why I call again on the leaders to rely on the dialogue, the Constitution of the unified state, and the Pledge and Accord Document.

[Riyad] Thank you 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, former president of [South] Yemen.

[Muhammad] Thank you for continuing to follow the situation in Yemen.

YSP Official Discusses Situation With Rights Group

EA1705223094 Aden Yemeni Republic Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Dr. 'Abd al-Aziz al-Dali', the political bureau member of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] secretary of the political department in the Central Committee of the YSP, had a meeting yesterday in Cairo with Dr. Muhammad (?Sa'id), the secretary general of the Arab Organization for Human Rights. During the meeting there was a discussion of the exceptional measures taken by the military authorities in Sanaa in the framework of the state of emergency and its consequences, cases of arrests at random and the destruction and looting of the properties of the members of the YSP and their supporters in the northern governorates, which contradicts human rights and public freedoms.

Northern Commanders Object to Mansur Appointment

PM1905081694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 18 May 94 p3

[Lutfi Shatarah report: "Sharp Differences Between Salih and His Military Commanders Over Appointment of 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur as Defense Minister"]

[Excerpts] London—Two weeks after the outbreak of battles in Yemen between the northern and southern regular forces, serious indications have appeared on the ground supporting the southern leaders' claims that the war is not between the "legitimate forces" and "a group of mutineers from the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP]," as claimed by Sanaa, but rather that it is a fierce war between northern forces supported by the militias of the Yemeni Reform Grouping led by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, elements of the outlawed Jihad Organization, Afghan Arab groups from Sudan and other Arab states, and Iraqi military experts on the one hand, and southern forces on the other.

The southern resistance is continuing against the northern forces trying to breach southern defenses in several areas with the aim of putting pressure on Aden to force the YSP leaders to leave the country or surrender, that being the view of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih who has conveyed to the Arab League delegation his rejection of any cease-fire initiatives. [passage omitted]

On the political level, it has been revealed that sharp differences have emerged between President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the northern military commanders over the appointment of 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a supporter of former south Yemeni President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, as defense minister. Sources have confirmed that Colonel 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar, President Salih's half-brother, rejected that decision and that a number of northern military commanders maintained that as they were fighting southern regular forces, they would not accept a southern officer's assuming responsibility for the northern forces, whatever his political position against the southern leaders.

The sources said that President Salih proposed a compromise solution to prevent a military mutiny in the current circumstances, and he agreed to freeze the new minister's powers until after the war and after settlement of the porblem, but some northern commanders are pressing for the appointment of 'Ali Muhsin al-Ahmar as defense minister. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Muhsin Muhammad Bin-Farid, leader of the Sons of Yemen League, has stated that the aim of the announcement of the declaration of principles initiative signed the day before yesterday by the YSP and the opposition's National Bloc was to stop the fighting, form a government of national salvation, and thoroughly investigate who caused the fighting.

He warned that the opposition would stand against any side which did not respond to the initiative—in a hint to the leaders of the General People's Congress [GPC] and the Yemeni Reform Grouping. He added that Sanaa's rejection of the initiative left no alternative but the mobilization of all military, human, and moral resources to make Sanaa understand that no solution could be imposed by military force and that there must be a return to reason and to dialogue for the implementation of the national consensus document.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Bin-Farid added: "We have our own human resources, intrinsic

capabilities, tribal relations, and the feeling that there is a right which must be upheld." He emphasized that the opposition devotes all its resources, big or small, to stopping this mad war. He also said: "Unity can only continue with the approval of the parties concerned, not by coercion and armed force. This war has been a blow to unity. [quotation marks as published]

Council of Ministers Discusses Country's Conditions

JN1805141794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting this morning under the acting prime minister, Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar. The Council discussed issues on the agenda, particularly reports presented to it on the military and security situation and the economic, supply, and information conditions under the current comprehensive national confrontation of the plot of apostasy, rebellion, and secession, which led the country to this situation with the aim of realizing the secessionists' desire which is opposed to the people and their unity and democracy, and undermining the constitutional legitimacy.

After discussing the various reports, the Council expressed its satisfaction with the great success of the brave Yemeni Armed Forces who are defending unity and legitimacy in confronting the forces of insurgency and secession. The Council emphasized the tasks and duties which the various ministries and departments of public utilities are expected to perform during the present circumstances. Foremost of these tasks are tackling and repairing the disorders which the insurgent secessionists planned, and dealing with the living conditions and the economic and supply situations in the country. This requires the implementation of a speedy plan to make available all the necessary needs of consumer goods in all the republic's governorates.

The Council decided to continue its meetings. The next session, which will be held tomorrow, will be devoted to discussing the detailed work of the executive and administrative sector and of each ministry. The Council agreed to the Civil Service Ministry's proposals concerning the holidays for the two great occasions, the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the fourth anniversary of the Yemeni Republic. The Council assigned each minister the task of fixing these holidays in a manner that will not affect the daily work in all ministries and public utilities during the present circumstances.

Economic, Oil Affairs Council Holds Meetings

JN1705144094 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The Higher Council for Economic and Oil Affairs continued its meetings today under Acting Prime Minister brother Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar. Many issues on the agenda were discussed. The Council also reviewed a number of reports submitted from pertinent financial corporations.

The Council recommended the adoption of measures that would secure a precise implementation [of its decisions].

Report Says Civil War Impacting Oil Industry

NC1805133294 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 18 May 94

[Report by Jean-Eudes Barbier]

[Text] Dubai, May 18 (AFP)—Yemen's two-week-old civil war has begun to paralyze the country, hitting its oil industry and threatening the entire economy of one of the world's poorest nations.

Yemen relies heavily on foreign currency earned from exports of its total oil production of 320,000 barrels per day (bpd). But heavy fighting between rival north and south forces has badly hit the industry.

The Canadian oil company, Canoxy, has already suspended extraction of 120,000 barrels per day (bpd) from the al-Masilah fields in the eastern province of Hadramaut.

Tankers, faced with higher insurance fees because of the war, refuse to load at the port of al-Mukalla, 700 kilometers (435 miles) east of the southern capital Aden and the destination of al- Masilah's oil.

However, the American oil company Hunt has continued to operate in another major field at Ma'rib, east of the capital Sanaa, piping out oil to the port of al-Hudaydah on the Red Sea.

The war has also created a rush on fuel in Sanaa, the northern capital cut off from oil supplies from the country's only refinery in the southern stronghold of Aden.

Long lines of people queue daily at gas stations for small quantities of fuel distributed by the army which has requisitioned most of the available supplies.

The operation of the Little Aden refinery, at the extreme west of the bay of Aden, is also threatened, even though it has been working to full capacity. Its output could be severely reduced or even halted by any suspension in al-Masilah's production if the fighting continues.

The fuel shortage is limiting the transport of goods and produce in the north. And, in the south, Aden is surrounded by fighting and can only be reached by sea.

But many shops and markets in Sanaa and Aden remain well stocked, despite panic-buying by some families. And banks and services also continue to operate in the cities, even though many are badly understaffed.

Schools in Aden have closed, and open only irregularly in the north as many foreign teachers have been evacuated. Residents of Aden are unable to leave the city, but Sanaa is almost deserted after people fled to take refuge in nearby villages.

The massive evacuation of thousands of European and Asian expatriates has also thrown many sectors of the economy in disarray.

But the fighting has not adversely affected the Yemeni currency which has only risen slightly to 80 rials a dollar in Sanaa and Aden, whereas before the war it was around 70 rials to the dollar.

Experts say the rial has been saved by a busy black market, always strong in Yemen, classed as one of the 32 least developed countries in the world.

Salih Phones King Husayn, Discusses Crisis

JN1905043894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Presidential Council Chairman Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih last night telephoned his brother His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, and briefed him on the current situation in our country in light of the victories that our valiant Armed Forces, the forces of unity and legitimacy are scoring in repulsing the forces of rebellion and secession that have ignited the war in the homeland to implement their secessionist scheme of fragmenting the homeland. The two sides also discussed issues of mutual interest.

The brother chairman valued the pan-Arab and noble stand of the brothers in Jordan, with his Majesty King Husayn at their head in support for our people and for unity and democracy in our country.

House Speaker Confers With Qatari Official

JN1705143894 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the House of Representatives, has made a telephone call to brother 'Ali Bin-Khalifah, speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar.

During the conversation, they reviewed the situation in Yemen and the parliamentary ties between the two fraternal countries and ways of enhancing them.

Arab League Envoy Rejects Basindwah Order To Leave

NC1705162694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA)—The repercussions of the war between north and south Yemen have been felt in its embassies and diplomatic missions abroad, especially after Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah issued a decree dismissing a number of southern Yemeni diplomats who work in its embassies abroad. Among these are Mr. Muhammad Shahir Sayf, acting Yemeni representative to the Arab League.

Mr. Shahir Sayf described the Yemeni foreign minister's request for the Arab League secretariat to withdraw Sayf's accreditation and for Sayf to return to Yemen as "unjust and illegitimate".

He said that Yemeni Prime Minister Engineer Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas had instructed him to continue his duties in this position. He pointed out that the reason behind the dismissal from his duties is because he is a southerner.

Muhammad Shahir Sayf said the Yemeni foreign minister's decision to remove him from the Yemeni representative office in Cairo was a unilateral decision prompted by divisionist notions. He noted that the Yemeni foreign minister should have waited for the war to end before making such a decision.

Mr. Muhammad Shahir Sayf said that he does not take his orders from Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah, but from Yemeni Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas (a southerner), "whom I consider to be the legitimate prime minister despite Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's decision to dismiss him", he said.

He affirmed that he will stay in his position as acting permanent Yemeni representative to the Arab League. He pointed out that the representation office has already sent a letter regarding this matter to the Arab League Secretariat.

MENA has learned that one of the reasons Muhammad Shahir Sayf was dismissed was that he ignored Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah during the latter's recent visit to Cairo. Sayf also, without guidance from Sanaa, declined to head the latest emergency session of the Arab League Council.

It is worth noting here that Muhammad Shahir Sayf assumed his current position when Yemen's previous permanent representative to the Arab League, Ahmad al-Shajbi, travelled to London for treatment, where he died a few days ago and was buried in Cairo.

Salih Appoints Representative to Arab League

JN1805211794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 May 94

[Presidential Decree No. 24, issued by the Presidency in Sanaa on 18 May]

[Text] The chairman of the Presidential Council,

Taking cognizance of the Republic of Yemen Constitution and law No. 2 of 1991 on the diplomatic and consular corps, and upon the recommendation of the foreign minister and after the approval of the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Council, decrees the following:

Article I

Brother Ahmad Muhammad Luqman, will be appointed ambassador and a permanent representative of the Republic of Yemen at the Arab League.

Article II

This decree will be valid as of date of issue and will be published in the Official Gazette.

Issued at the Presidency in Sanaa on 7 Dhu al-Hijjah, 1414 of the hegira, corresponding to 18 May 1994.

[Signed] 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council,

Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, the acting prime minister,

Muhammad Salim Basindwah, the foreign minister

Commentary Says Fall of Aden Forces 'Imminent'

JN1805131494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0935 GMT 18 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O free brother citizens in the brave city of Aden. Your Armed Forces, who are defending unity and Constitutional legitimacy, are advancing, with firmness and faithfulness, to pound at the fortifications of the forces of apostasy and secession and to save brave, steadfast Aden from the remnant soldiers of treason, terrorism, and agentry, so beloved Aden can return to the smiling face of the one united Yemen and resume its appropriate position as the trade and economic capital of the Republic of Yemen, in which goodness, security, peace, and stability will prevail under the banner of unity, democracy, and Constitutional legitimacy.

O free brother citizens in the brave city of Aden: Your national, unionist leadership under the zealous national leader, Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council and supreme commander of the Armed Forces, is very concerned about the security and peace of all the sons of the homeland, particularly the citizens in brave, lofty Aden. They are waiting with patience for the moment of great salvation at the hands of the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy. These brave lofty forces continued their sacred march toward brave Aden to save it from the pros of terrorism, crime, and bloody liquidation, the forces of apostasy and secession.

This is the last chance for all those who are misled by the forces of apostasy and secession to join the ranks of their brothers defending unity and Constitutional legitimacy, to declare their loyalty to God, the homeland, the revolution, and unity, and to step with all bravery and courage on the stupidity of the forces of apostasy and secession. These forces, who are taking their last gasp, want to set Aden on fire and destroy it, as an expression of their grudge, stupidity, cowardice, and meanness.

The danger facing our people in brave Aden comes from the professionals of terrorism, crime, and destruction, the gang of apostasy and secession, not from their unionist Armed Forces, who are defending the dignity, life, stability, and security of the people, protecting their unity, safeguarding Constitutional legitimacy, and preserving blood, money, honor, and property from the danger of the forces of apostasy and secessions, who are using the bodies of our men, women, old men, and children in the brave and heroic city of Aden—through force, coercion, threats, and violence—as a human shield to protect themselves, now that they have lost all their losing cards and grown afraid of their future. They have only this rancorous, barbaric, terrorist method that shows their disregard for the lives of innocent people and their thirst to shed more chaste blood, thereby recording a new chapter in their bloody ill-omened history, which is already full of tragedies, massacres, and bloody liquidation in which tens of thousands of our innocent people were killed.

The forces of apostasy and secession know full well that the moment of the fall of their criminal and terrorist scheme is approaching and that the inevitable downfall of the symbols of apostasy and secession in the quagmire of treason and crime is imminent. Therefore, these forces will not hesitate to commit rancorous acts of revenge while they are dying.

Hence, the sons of our people, particularly our free, faithful brothers in brave Aden, must be fully alert and vigilant to foil the last chapters of the treasonous and secessionist conspiracy. They must be fully confident that the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy are very concerned about the citizens' life, property, security, and stability. In fact, this concern is greater than their concern about the lives of their brave soldiers, equipment, and weapons. They are the forces of the people who protect the people, their achievements, security, stability, and Constitutional legitimacy. These forces are for the people, not for an individual party, faction, or separatist clique to protect their individual narrow interests. They are the forces of revolution, unity, and democracy which only aim their guns at traitors, rebels against Constitutional legitimacy, and violators of people's options.

Therefore, the sons of our honest and unionist people in brave Aden need to be aware of this important fact and to be very confident and reassured that their brothers, the sons of the Armed Forces—the forces of unity, Constitutional legitimacy, and democracy—endeavor, with all honesty, love, faithfulness, and concern, to save them from the tyranny of the terror traitors, the advocates of apostasy, separation, agentry, and treason. All honest civilians and military in brave, unionist Aden should join the ranks of unity and Constitutional legitimacy with all faithfulness, bravery, courage, and heroism in order to write, together with their courageous brothers in the Yemeni Armed Forces—the forces of unity and Constitutional legitimacy—the chapter of freedom from the nightmare of the forces of apostasy, separation, terrorism, and treason, and to champion the will of their lofty, faithful, and great people. Victory comes only from God.

Tariq 'Aziz Comments on 'Blockade' Reported

JN1805140794 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] New York, May 18, INA—Iraqi Deputy Premier Tariq 'Aziz now in New York condemned the attitude of the countries insisting on continuing the blockade against Iraq. He emphasised the aim behind their policy was harming the people of Iraq and depriving it of requisites of life.

Mr. 'Aziz also said, in an interview to the U.S. CNN screened last night, those who insist on maintaining the blockade on Iraq were badly harming the people of Iraq and its right to live normally. He stressed it was necessary for the big powers influencial in the Security Council to respect Iraq's right to independence and sovereignty.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz had pointed out that in the Security Council there is an apparent majority recognising and admitting the distances Iraq had passed in implementing the international resolutions. And he accused the United States as the country inside the Security Council hindering the raising of the blockade imposed on Iraq.

The Iraqi deputy premier reviewed the negative impact on the people of Iraq owing to the obstinacy of some countries in maintaining the blockade and said children and women and elderly people were dying because of the severe shortage of medicine.

Security Council Deliberations on Embargo Cited

JN1805151694 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] New York, May 18, INA—News of New York mentioned that the UN Security Council last evening held a session to review what had been implemented of the Resolution 687 and the measures required for lifting the embargo.

Majority of the members of the Council save the United States and Britain expressed their confirmation that nothing negative to be issued against Iraq.

Following the discussions the Russian permanent delegate to the UN expressed strong hope that the Security Council would acknowledge next July what Iraq had achieved of positive steps in implementing provisions of the Resolution 687.

The Russian delegate told journalists following the Council's deliberations that the Russian stance toward the blockade against Iraq was a practical one and simple depending on the fact that Iraq had made good steps and the Security Council had to admit that and "we have proposed that on the council."

The French ambassador to the United Nations expressed his belief that the general feeling at the Council was that Iraq had accomplished a progress in the area of cooperation with the special commission. He said the French stance was still the same since the previous reviewal, i.e. there was a progress in the field of weapons and monitoring and that "we are with the legal reading of the Resolution 687 which means that soon after Ekeus and the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency informed the Council that the monitoring was working safely the council would give the green light to lift the embargo on exporting the Iraqi oil."

Prime Minister Meets Jordanian Education Minister

JN1705124994 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Apr 94

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—Prime Minister Ahmad Husayn Khudayyir has received Jordanian Education Minister Dr. Khalid al-'Umari and his delegation. The prime minister emphasized the depth and strength of fraternal bilateral relations, especially in the educational field, and said these relations are based on the common future of the sons of the Arab nation and their glorious Arab and Islamic heritage.

He praised fraternal Jordan's position toward Iraq while confronting the 30-state aggression and the unjust siege imposed on it, and emphasized that Iraq will not forget this honorable pan-Arab position by the fraternal Jordanian people.

Khudayyir said that if Iraq had not built an advanced and broad educational base and scientific cadre, it would not have been able to rebuild after the sinful 30-state aggression with such speed and efficiency. He said this has prevented the enemies from realizing the evil objectives for which they mobilized all their scientific and military technologies.

The prime minister asked the guest minister to convey his greetings to the Jordanian prime minister along with his wishes for continued progress for the brotherly Jordanian people.

Dr. al-'Umari conveyed the greetings of the prime minister of fraternal Jordan to the prime minister, and his wishes of continued progress to the Iraqi people. He emphasized that Jordan—people and leadership—is with Iraq in its confrontation of the imperialist- Zionist-Atlantic aggression.

He said his visit aims to discuss means of implementing the educational agreement concluded by the two countries. He said he will also get acquainted with the educational experiment in Iraq and the results of the unjust siege on the educational establishments.

Jordanian Minister Departs

JN1905104694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA)—Jordanian Education Minister Khalid al-'Umari and the delegation accompanying him left Baghdad today following a visit to Iraq which lasted several days.

In a statement to an Iraqi News Agency correspondent, al-'Umari said his visit to Iraq follows the implementation of an agreement signed between the two fraternal countries. The visit also aimed to study the efforts designed to enhance the educational system in Iraq following the unfair 30-state aggression and in view of the continued unjust blockade, he noted.

Al-'Umari said he was briefed on the Iraqi people's suffering as a result of the unfair blockade, on the embargo's negative repercussions on the educational process in Iraq, and on Iraqi achievements in various fields in order to reconstruct what was destroyed in the treacherous aggression of the 30-state alliance. He pointed out that the reconstruction campaign expresses both defiance and steadfastness, which emphasize that Iraq is now a model for all Arabs.

Article Advocates Force To Preserve Yemeni Unity

JN1705060694 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 9 May 94 pp 1,12

['Umar al-Kazimi article: "Two Gardens, Not Two Countries;" article carries the caveat: "This article expresses the opinion of its writer, not that of the newspaper"]

[Text] In the early eighties, we were a group of young adolescent men. At that age, every youth usually has his idol. As party members, our idols were not the typical musicians, pop singers, or movie stars. There were 10 of us, and we all thought our first idol was Saddam Husayn from the way he dressed, spoke, walked, and dealt with people, and even by his life style. Having agreed on our first idol, we then split into two groups. The first group of six or seven viewed [late Iraqi Defense Minister] 'Adnan Khayrallah as its second idol from his behavior, conduct, and gentle nature. The second group of three or four viewed comrade Barzan Ibrahim [Saddam Husayn's brother and Iraqi envoy to UN European headquarters] as its second idol, because in his youthful years in the eighties Barzan was in charge of a most sensitive state organ [Iraqi Intelligence Service] and had a background similar to that of comrade 'Adnan, although the latter was more experienced since he took part in the Ramadan Revolution and its ramifications. But comrade Barzan was also with the comrade leader during the 17-30 July 1968 Revolution. The story goes that comrade Barzan, who carried a pistol, had tripped a soldier, who held a machinegun, with his foot to protect his brother the leader, because he thought the pistol would not serve the purpose. The group that considered comrade 'Adnan Khayrallah as its second idol was also charmed by Barzan's unusual character. On the other hand, the group that considered comrade Barzan as its second idol also admired comrade 'Adnan Khayrallah's personality. At any rate, this is not the subject of our story.

When Barzan's first press article appeared, only three of the original group of ten remained, the others had pursued their own courses in life. We thought the article was interesting. Then came the second, third, and fourth articles. Again, we thought they were fine and that there was no reason why he should not express his opinion. But as the articles continued to appear, we noticed that they contained a set of ideas that were different from our way of thinking in Iraq. The articles continued to move away from us and to get closer to the inclinations of persons who live abroad. When we observed that these viewpoints began to develop into courses and were followed by more articles, which deepened these courses and developed them into a program and a firm line, we thought it would be proper to reply to them in view of the fact that we are a group of young men in Iraq who lived the Mother of Battles, fought in Kuwait and Basra, and experienced all the stages of the blockade.

Our attention was drawn to an article comrade Barzan wrote about the relationship between Iraq and Iran. He spoke about this relationship as though nothing had happened between Iraq and Iran. He spoke about the sons of our people from the Shiites in Iraq, forgetting that Iraqi Shiites are an Arab faction that is separated by a river of blood from the Persian faction, which claims to be Shiite, and that a big difference in concepts and beliefs exists between the two factions, even though the the Shu'ubists [Persians] always consider them as one. Moreover, many of the Iraqis who fought and fell as martyrs in al-Qadisiyah [Iraq-Iran War] were from our Shiite sons, especially from the south. This is not a new thing, since it has been dealt with in several articles. The theme of comrade Barzan's article revolves around the possibility of coexistence between Iraq and Iran.

In fact, we cannot coexist with Iran. But we should apply the Arab proverb that says: "Beware of your friend, but do not betray him."

But again, this is not the topic of our discussion. The topic is an article written by Barzan al-Tikriti in AL-JUMHURIYAH under the headline "A Viewpoint on Yemeni Events."

Let us review some of its paragraphs. The author said: "What is taking place in Yemen is the outcome of a relationship between two conflicting regimes that have entered into a unity that was received with caution and skepticism by everyone concerned, both the sincere and the not-so-sincere ones." The author added: "The situation has reached the point of merciless fighting between brothers in which aircraft and heavy weapons are being used and battles are taking place as if between two foreign armies. Airports and power installations are being destroyed."

Actually, the current events Yemen are related to an ideological analysis of the phases that preceded and followed the Mother of Battles. After 2 August [1990] to be precise, the curtain was pulled and the Arab regimes were exposed. Nobody believed us when we said that at the time. It is only now that we are beginning to discover that many Arab regimes, whether in the Arab Maghreb or the Arab East, have had ties with "Israel" for decades. This frightful relationship has been under cover all that time, and it is only now that it is being announced publicly. Indeed, Arab regimes were exposed after 2 August and the Arab homeland was split into two ranks; the rank of faith and the rank of infidelity, to borrow the words of the leader president. The

split was so clear cut that the vote that tipped the balance in the Arab League meeting on the blockade and the armed aggression was that of Djibouti.

The Mother of Battles took place and was followed by a new phase. So what happened? Following the armed aggression and the period of treachery and treason [reference to the Shiite rebellion in the south], and due to Iraq's preoccupation with its domestic situation and the lack of an active Iraqi diplomacy and of professionals in foreign policy, the supporting Arab ranks collapsed and the number of supporters decreased.

Let us see what happened. Morocco remained neutral, but also maintained a clandestine courtship with the other side. Tunisia maintained a position that was very different from the one it held before the aggression on Iraq. As for Jordan's stand, it is clearly known to the Iraqis.

/Why do we say there are two conflicting regimes in Yemen? On the contrary, when Iraq was strong and had an army that extended from Zakho to al-Faw; and when it enjoyed a well-known political weight and was not under siege, Ye/meni unity was a model that inspired Arab poets and unionists, and Yemeni relations were at their peak. But the fact is, Yemen began to be subjected to Saudi intrigues. In an article published on the front page of an earlier issue of BABIL, comrade Abu-Sarhan [suspected to be 'Udayy Saddam Husayn] referred to Yemen's courtship with Saudi Arabia after the armed aggression against Iraq. He said, verbatim: "If Yemen continues to play with fire the way it is doing now it will burn its fingers." When Yemen began compromising its principled stands, it backfired on the Yemeni body itself. If we look now, we will find that the current events in Yemen were preceded by one Yemeni side clearly moving in the direction of the sides that were hostile to Iraq, while in the past the Yemenis maintained a unified stand.

Thus, Yemeni events are indirectly linked to what took place in the Mother of Battles and the subsequent developments. What happened makes us understand the importance of strengthening the support for Iraq that is now receding.

At any rate, let us continue discussing the subject of Yemen. Looking at the Yemeni fighting, which comrade Barzan said is taking place between two armies and where airports and power installations are being destroyed, we will observe that it is similar to the military plan the foreign enemies used against Iraq, which also targeted power and water installations, factories, and so forth. Therefore, the plan being carried out in Yemen today is not just an outcome of the conflict between Yemenis, but also a plan drawn up and studied abroad in order to achieve the objective of dividing Yemen. The existence of a strong Yemen south of Saudi Arabia and a strong Iraq north of it constitutes a strategic danger to the ruling family in the Arabian Peninsula. Iraq and Yemen cherish pan-Arab aspirations. Yemenis have always been known for their Arab nationalist sentiments and are true Arabs. Proof of this is that Judaism had existed in Yemen, but it has not had any effect on Arabs there. When Imam al-Husayn [grandson of Prophet Muhammad and first Imam of the Shiites who was assassinated in al-Kufah, Iraq], may peace be upon him, decided to leave for al-Kufah, 'Abdallah Ibn- 'Umar Ibn-al-Khattab, may God rest his soul in peace, asked him: "Where are you heading, Abu-'Abdallah?" He replied: "I am heading for al-Kufah." He told him: "Why do you not go to Yemen, where your father's Shiites [referring to Yemeni Zaydi sect, an off-shoot of Shiism] live and where you will have the protection of the mountains." As politicians, we know that mountainous areas are ideal for rebel armed movements. When our lord al-Husayn insisted on going to al-Kufah, 'Abdallah Ibn-'Umar told him: "Come, let me bid you farewell."

As we said, what is taking place in Yemen was planned and studied abroad ever since the declaration of Yemeni unity, and it was intensified after the Mother of Battles.

Let us continue with comrade Barzan's article. He said: "What led to the general war was the view held by some people that say: Either we have full unity, or a general destructive war will be the only alternative."

It was a full unity. And, a general war is not an alternative to unity. A general war is a means to destroy unity.

The author also said: "The world was not created in one day so as to be united in one day. Unity between states takes time."

The creation of the world was a heavenly will. When God Almighty created the world in seven days, He wanted to teach patience to mankind. Regarding Arab unity, we have to be clear on this score. The author, who is posted in the West, will understand us when we say: One of the great historical unity experiments was the unification of Germany under Bismarck. Germany was then unified by force of arms. A second great experiment was the American federation between the southern and northern states, which was also achieved by force of arms, and by a method similar to the one taking place now in Yemen.

Let us consider the Arab reality. What do we see? We see an egotistical Arab individual who loves shaykhdoms and being a shaykh. At a time when suzerainties have vanished from the world, shaykhdoms are still deeply-rooted in the Arab homeland. No Arab unity has been achieved without the use of armed force. Armed force has always been the means to Arab unity. As for the rulers, they have always tried to entrench regionalism. We thank God that Yemenis understand the meaning of this war. They rejected mediation, because if they had accepted them Yemen would have been divided, as is now happening in Yugoslavia. But the war has now become a war to unify the country by armed force; in other words, a full liberation war. This situation is similar to what they wanted to happen in Iraq during the period of treachery and treason. They wanted to strengthen the secessionist trend and then declare the division of Iraq into three states according to the well-known scenario.

Barzan said: "What is happening in Yemen is a repetition of past Arab unity attempts; the usual relationship which begins with hugs and kisses and ends up in disputes and war."

Previous attempts at Arab unity have not been a unity of one Arab people in two countries, but a unity sought for political purposes and ideological ends. Every Arab ruler sought to take whatever he could from the other in order to increase his assets and improve his image before his people. Therefore, there was no real Arab unity. The real unity is the one known to the Iraqis and is unity in the real sense of the word.

Barzan continued in his article, saying: "The dream of unity has developed into fear, terror, and panic. In fact, it has become a nightmare, and not just in Yemen."

No. Never. All Arab strugglers and all Arabs know full well that their real dream is the unification of the nation. They understand that their aspirations will not be achieved, their identity will not be asserted, and their prestige will not be maintained except through unity. Therefore, the enemies of the Arabs represented by Zionism and the Americans always try to make the Arabs understand that poverty, hunger, injustice, panic, and fear result from unity. At the same time, and as is now happening with the Iraqis, these enemies are trying, through their punishment of Iraq, to create a reaction against unity and to scare the Arabs away from future unity. But unity is a firm conviction. A person cannot live with one lung, or live a full and real life with half a body or a disability. Unity is the basic aim of all strugglers and honorable men. Despite all the enmity, we still hear hostile forces represented by the United States and Britain saying: "The opposition has failed to establish roots inside Iraq." We thank God that the opponents of the Iraqi regime are no more than a bunch of agents whose morality and affiliation to true Arab Iraq are suspect. They were known to the Iraqi people even before they became known to the persons who rule Iraq by their history, conduct, and behavior.

I repeat and say that unity is the resort and hope of the nation. it is also the paradise and hope of the faithful on earth. Therefore, we totally disagree with the author of the article when he said: "There should either be a unity that respects everyone and guarantees their common rights, or a return to the separatist states that existed before."

In another part of the article, the author set an example by saying: "There are 20 other separate Arab states, but they have managed to coexist with one another without bickering and fighting." This is what we hope, but how can it be without fighting?!

The situation reached the point where half of the regimes of the nation turned their armies against one people [Iraq] of this nation. They provided them with funds and arms. The present state of the nation does not augur well. In fact, the nation has never been in such a miserable state in its entire history. The Arab rulers have not been so daring as to enlist the help of the enemy or to deal with Zionism so publicly. We thank God that it has finally surfaced, because we will see more such developments, God willing, in 1995 when the situation will become very clear to everyone.

The author of the article cites another example by saying: "The other example, although somewhat different, was Syria. [Former Egyptian President] 'Abd-al-Nasir decided not to reinforce the Egyptian forces in Syria, especially in Latakia, in order to strike at the secessionist movement there. 'Abd-al-Nasir believed that saving unity by bloodshed and opening fire on Syrian secessionists would bar all doors to rapprochement and unity between the two peoples and countries in the future."

God bless 'Abd-al-Nasir who was one of the symbols of the Arab revolutionary movement, but not the first or only symbol of this movement. He was also not a model for nationalists and pan-Arabists on the Arab national level.

'Abd-al-Nasir took steps during certain historical phases that are questionable to this day. One such step was his approval of the presence of the Egyptian forces alongside the British forces when 'Abd-al-Karim Qasim demanded the restoration of Kuwait. The other was his decision to open the Suez Canal to foreign forces proceeding to Kuwait. These steps continue to be questioned and queried by all nationalists in Iraq. What Barzan's article said about Latakia is another point against 'Abd-al-Nasir, because the position taken by 'Abd-al-Nasir then led to the presence of Hafiz al-Asad today. Hafiz al-Asad is from the Latakia area. 'Abd-al-Nasir contributed to the emergence of the al-Nusayriyah Movement in Latakia when he failed to deal his blow then. This movement developed and formed the basis for the party's setback in Syria and the assumption of power by Hafiz al-Asad, who has adopted hostile trends toward pan- Arabism and Iraq. Syria is known for this up to this moment.

The brothers in Yemen have done well. There is no alternative. And, as the poet says: Honor can only be redeemed by bloodshed.

Therefore, Yemen—land and people—will not be redeemed except by sacrifices.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

"There was for Saba, aforetime, a Sign in their homeland—two gardens to the right and to the left. Eat of the sustenance provided by your Lord, and be grateful to Him; a territory fair and happy. And, a Lord oft-forgiving." [Koranic verse]

Rabin: 'Arafat Clarification on Jihad 'Far-Fetched'

TA1905042794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says he does not accept the clarifications of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that he was referring to a peaceful jihad during his controversial address at a mosque in Johannesburg earlier this month. Rabin says 'Arafat's explanation is far-fetched. Rabin says the episode is making the process with the Palestinians more difficult and will continue to do so in the future.

Protest Lodged Over PLO-UNDP Agreement

TA1805140294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 May 94 p A4

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Israel demands that the agreement signed recently by the PLO and the UNDP [UN Development Program] be amended, seeing that Faruq Qaddumi signed it with the title "foreign minister of Palestine." As it was signed, the agreement gives the PLO a status in the entire West Bank, and not just in Jericho.

The UNDP, which specializes in extending aid to developing countries, has been operating in the territories for many years in coordination with Israel financing economic and agricultural development programs. The establishment of self-rule in Gaza and Jericho required a change in the UNDP's status in the Palestinian Authority areas. The Gaza-Jericho agreement stipulates that the PLO may sign agreements concerning development programs and economic aid to the Palestinians with countries and international organizations on behalf of the Palestinian Authority in Gaza and Jericho.

The Israeli UN delegation came across the PLO-UNDP agreement last week and reported it to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Israel lodged a harsh protest with the UNDP over the agreement, which contrary to what had been promised, was not coordinated with it. Israel argued that the agreement contravenes the Israeli-PLO accords, that Qaddumi's title of foreign minister of Palestine contravenes UN resolutions, and that it transpires from the agreement that the PLO is the source of authority in all the territories and not just in Gaza and Jericho.

At the same time, Israel asked the United States to help it pressure the UN not to pass a resolution ratifying the agreement and to prevent a precedent which could be emulated in other agreements between the PLO and international organizations. UN officials sent a message to Israel apologizing for the error, noting that they had gave in to PLO pressure to sign the draft agreement, and asserting that the UN will send a letter to the PLO informing it that there has been no "recognition" of Qaddumi's status as foreign minister and that the agreement will only apply to Gaza and Jericho.

Political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday that the Palestinians have been trying to sneak "symbols of sovereignty" into Gaza and Jericho. For example, contrary to what had been agreed upon, the word "national" appears on the badges worn by Palestinian policemen on their sleeves and a sign bearing the inscription "The Palestine Police" was hung on the police building in Gaza. The assessment in internal consultations held by the Foreign Ministry is that the Palestinians will attempt to use the offices of the donor countries in Jericho to maintain external relations with them.

The Gaza-Jericho agreement bans the Palestinian Authority from maintaining external relations or opening embassies in its territory or in other countries.

New Police 'Autonomy District' Approved

TA1305105694 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 94 p A4

[Report by Re'uven Shapira]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has approved in principle the establishment of a new police district, which will be the sixth, and which will serve as the unified command of the police units in the territories. Rabin has thus accepted a plan put forth by Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

The establishment of the new district means, among other things, that some 1,000 policemen and border policemen will be drafted to the force. According to the plan, the Israel Police and Border Police units will assume responsibility for security and order in the territories under the command of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and will perform many of the tasks currently preformed by the Army.

The new district will be commanded by a ranking police commander and will be called the Autonomy District. It will unite the three currently operating subdistricts of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. [passage omitted]

In the framework of the new police deployment in the territories, a unit of 300 border policemen will be set up. It will perform guard duties on the roads and crossings between the areas of the autonomy and Israel. The new unit has begun organizing and drafting men.

Police Unit To Secure Gaza-Jericho 'Safe Passage'

TA1705164794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Police Commissioner Asaf Hefetz today disclosed plans to set up a guard unit to secure the passage from Jericho to Gaza. The unit, called Safe Passage, will daily guard one of the four roads on which Palestinians will drive from Gaza to Jericho. The unit consists of 400 border policemen: two companies of policemen will drive along the road, and two other companies will serve as reserves and will be based in Qiryat Gat.

Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin ordered the establishment of this unit to thwart terror attacks, arms smuggling, and provocations by Jews against Arabs.

Orient House Activities, 'Shadow Municipality' Detailed

TA1305161194 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 94 p A5

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpts] "Taking into consideration the circumstances, including the Israeli Government's recognition of the PLO, there is no public interest in taking administrative action against Orient House," outgoing Police Chief Rafi Peled wrote to Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

East Jerusalem's Orient House is the center for PLO activity in the town and the West Bank. The building houses the various departments of the developing self-rule authority, and meetings between the PLO and foreign diplomats are held there. This is the first time that the Israel Police has officially confirmed that it does not take any action against Orient House because of Israel's recognition of the PLO.

Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Shmu'el Me'ir, who made Peled's letter public yesterday, retorted that "the large number of daily terrorist attacks against Jews on their way to the Western Wall and against vehicles belonging to Israelis and tourists in Jerusalem are initiated and funded by the PLO office in Orient House." He said a PLO flag flies on the building and it is guarded by the organization's private militia.

"The militia also serves as a police force. It receives complaints from civilians and deals with them by exercising its might in violation of the law. Orient House officially operates under the name Center for Arab Research and also distributes funds to some 30 organizations in East Jerusalem," he said. According to Me'ir, no action is being taken also against Nuzhah House, which is a center of activity for the PLO and the rejectionist organizations. The building houses two theaters and serves Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. [passage omitted]

According to a report by the Mabat Leshalom [Look Toward Peace] organization, due to be published in the coming days, "Faysal al-Husayni, head of the PLO's office in Jerusalem, is preparing the ground to set up a Palestinian 'shadow municipality' to be called the Jerusalem National Council. The council plans to replace all those dealing with the town's Arab population, to the extent possible, and will form ties with the self-rule's elected council during the interim stage."

The report says "the council will have a mayor, deputies, comptrollers, nine heads of municipal departments, and its own police force. It will have planning, economic, judicial, social welfare, cultural, political, religious, finance, and overall security departments. It will also have departments for foreign relations and ties with Israel."

According to Mabat Leshalom, al-Husayni said that the authority's establishment is partially aimed at improving the Palestinians' ability to bargain in negotiations over the permanent settlement. Al-Husayni's spokesman, Ma'an 'Urqayt, told Mabat Leshalom that al- Husayni prefers calling the authority the Jerusalem Committee. He said the committee's task is to provide the residents of East Jerusalem with services, because the PLO does not recognize the Jerusalem Municipal Council's authority.

Mabat Leshalom reports that the PLO announced the establishment of a population registry office for East Jerusalem called the Palestinian Center for Statistics and directed by Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah. It also set up the Council for Palestinian Development and Construction.

Mabat Leshalom also claims that the PLO is demanding that Israel hand over to it control of 'Atarot Airport, claiming that it is situated in the territories occupied by Israel in 1967. The PLO has called on foreign airlines not to land at 'Atarot.

Referring to Israeli violations of the agreement [not further specified], Mabat Leshalom notes expansion of the settlement of Betar and the Ma'ale Adumim area, as well as the decision by the Jerusalem Municipality Planning Committee to build 395 apartments near the village of Jabal al-Mukabir in East Jerusalem.

IDF Lifts Hebron Curfew; TIPH Resumes Activities

TA1905085194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Last night the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] lifted the curfew that had been imposed in Hebron in the wake of the incidents last Monday [16 May].

The TIPH [Temporary International Presence in Hebron] spokesman told our correspondent Moti Amir that during the curfew, the observers were not allowed to leave their headquarters and were actually held under house arrest. According to him, TIPH personnel resumed their duties this morning.

Strip Residents To Be Allowed To Enter Israel

TA1805131794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Residents of the Gaza Strip will be allowed to enter the boundaries of Israel after presenting a special certificate and undergoing a thorough security check. This statement was made by Police Minister Moshe Shahal to our correspondent Nisim Qeynan. Shahal added that responsibility for guarding the Green Line

between the Gaza Strip and Israel will be handed over from the army to the Israel Police. In the next few days, the police command will take charge of the Lakhish region and the Southern Command's home front headquarters, thus creating a continuous and uniform command. The minister noted that within two weeks, he will announce the establishment of a sixth police district to be in charge of the autonomy. The police minister made the remarks during a tour of northern Gaza Strip today.

Commissioner Asaf Hefetz, Israel Police commander, expects no special problems in conducting safe passage between the Gaza Strip and Jericho. He expects tight cooperation between the Israeli and the autonomy police forces. Today, Commissioner Hefetz visited the Northern District for the first time since he assumed duty as police chief. He told our correspondent in the north Yo'av Aviv that he sees no change taking place on the ground following Yasir 'Arafat's call for a jihad.

Gaza Settler Moderately Wounded; Nabulus Youth Shot

TA1805192494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] A resident of the settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip was moderately wounded this evening when shots were fired at his car from a passing vehicle.

Our correspondent Nisim Qeynan reports that Netzarim residents reacted to the attack by blocking a traffic axis near their settlement. They are demanding that the commander of the Southern Command meet them and promise that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will prevent Palestinians from driving on the road where the attack took place.

An Arab youth was seriously injured in the eye today by a rubber bullet fired by soldiers at stonethrowers in the Nabulus casbah. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the youth was evacuated to a hospital in Jerusalem.

Estonian Defense Minister Pays Visit

TA1305133494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 94 p A7

[Report by security affairs correspondent Sharon Shade]

[Excerpts] Estonian Defense Minister Indrek Kannik arrived in Israel yesterday for a four-day visit as the guest of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister. The visiting minister will visit Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] factories and will be briefed on the IAI's activity in the sphere of overhauling planes and drones. Mr. Kannik will meet with the prime minister and senior defense establishment officials today. He will also visit the Israel Military Industries [IMI] and Elbit Computers. [passage omitted]

Czech Defense Minister Antonin Baudys will arrive in Israel next Thursday for a five-day official visit. Baudys will meet with the prime minister and senior defense establishment officials and will visit various defense industries.

Next month, Israel will participate for the first time in a weapons and military technology exhibition in the Czech Republic. Israel's exhibit, which is being organized by the Defense Ministry's Defense Sales Department, will include IMI and REFA'EL [Armament Development Authority] booths.

Cooperation Memo Signed With Czech Republic

TA1905085094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Today, Israel and the Czech Republic signed a memorandum on security cooperation. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin lauded Czechoslovakia for assisting Israel during the Independence War by sending weapons, without which it would have been much harder for us to win our independence. Czech Defense Minister Antonin Baudys said that the Czechs assisted Israel in the past and are seeking Israel's assistance today. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the Czech minister began his official visit to Israel today.

Chinese Minister Expresses Interest in Projects

TA1305112894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 May 94 p C12

[Report by Dan Lauper]

[Text] Chinese Construction Minister Hoe Jie, who is currently visiting Israel, was yesterday the guest of his Israeli counterpart Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer and of Bentziyon Melman, the director general of the Public Works Department. Jie said that China was interested in utilizing the know-how accumulated by the Israeli Construction Ministry and Public Works Department in residential construction and the building of roads and intersections. He noted that 20 million apartments were built in China annually.

The Chinese minister expressed the hope that Israeli construction companies and the Chinese Government would cooperate on building projects in Israel, Third World countries, and the Arab world.

Construction Minister Jie proposed sending 500 Chinese construction workers to Israel and Minister Ben-Eli'ezer agreed.

During a tour of the Dead Sea, Jie expressed interest in building hotels, as well as a Chinese cultural and medical center, including the construction of hundreds of hotel rooms at a cost of $80 million at Nahal Haver.

The Chinese minister is also interested in establishing the Dead Sea project in partnership with Israeli companies. At the same time, he wants to build a Chinese leisure resort. Jie also visited Tel Aviv's central bus station.

King, al-Asad Postpone Summit to 20 May

JN1905055794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic last night held a phone call. The two leaders discussed the latest developments in the region. They also decided to postpone the meeting between his majesty and President Hafiz al-Asad, which was scheduled to be held in Damascus today, to tomorrow, Friday.

Abu-Nuwar Denies Resignation Offer by al-Majali

PM1705111894 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 May 94 p6

[Excerpt] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Jordanian Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar has denied that Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali submitted his resignation to the Jordanian monarch, as claimed by some local papers recently. He said that the repetition of such rumors is a matter of speculation by some people, and that the decision in this connection is up to the king.

Abu-Nuwar did not rule out the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle after 'Id al-Adha, saying that: "The reshuffle is up to the prime minister. That is possible if he sees a need for it." [passage omitted]

King Briefs Media Officials on Developments

JN1805164794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the homeland's higher interests impose on all of us further awareness to confront the challenges facing us and to safeguard national unity and awakening, particularly at this delicate stage through which the homeland and nation are passing.

During a meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court today with officials in charge of media and press institutions, his majesty stressed the constants of Jordan's stand on the peace process, represented by the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just peace in the region, and to provide all support and backing for the Palestinian brothers in harmony with the Rabat summit resolutions of 1974, which stressed that the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

His majesty stressed the need for the Palestinian brothers' cohesion at this critical stage of the Palestine question.

His Majesty King Husayn also stressed the need to promote coordination among the Arab parties participating in the peace process within a framework of frankness, clarity, and mutual trust.

His majesty acquainted the media and press family with the latest developments in fraternal Yemen, stressing that the Jordanian stand toward this issue is based on adherence to Yemeni legitimacy and unity. He also briefed them on the efforts Jordan has made since the beginning of the crisis in fraternal Yemen and the signing of the pledge and accord document by all the Yemeni parties in Amman, to avoid explosion of the conflict and to safeguard fraternal Yemen's achievements of unity and democracy.

During the meeting, His Majesty King Husayn reviewed the latest developments regarding the lifting of the blockade on al-'Aqabah Port and the Jordanian decision not to return to the peace negotiations until after this issue is settled and after the blockade is lifted. His majesty noted that it has recently been agreed that the neutral British company, Lloyds, in coordination with the United Nations, be entrusted with the task of supervising imports of goods and materials to al-'Aqabah.

His majesty also reviewed various national and regional issues, stressing the need for continuous meetings and contacts on all levels to exchange views on latest developments.

At the end of the meeting, Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani expressed the media and press family's thanks and appreciation to his majesty for providing this chance to meet with his majesty and for briefing them on various developments and national and international issues.

Attending the meeting were al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, Marwan al-Qasim, political adviser to his majesty, and Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, his majesty's adviser.

King Appoints Ahmad al-'Aqayilah New Senate Member

JN1705124294 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 May 94

[Royal decree read by the Secretary General of the Parliament Salih al-Zu'bi during a Senate session on 17 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, taking cognizance of Article 36 of the Constitution, decree the following:

His Excellency Ahmad al-'Aqayilah shall be appointed a member of the Senate as of 16 May 1994.

Ministry Voices 'Reservations' About Economic Talks

NC1805115794 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Lebanon today received an official invitation to participate in the fifth session of the multilateral talks Economic Development Working Group, which will meet in Morocco from 15 to 16 June. The invitation was conveyed to Foreign Ministry Secretary General Zafir al-Hasan by the Moroccan and Russian ambassadors. U.S. Charge d'Affaires Vincent Battle did not attend the meeting.

A diplomatic source at the Bustrus Palace [Foreign Ministry premises] said Lebanon has reservations about participating in the meeting of any group emanating from the multilateral talks, because the bilateral talks have produced no tangible results.

Hizballah's Qasim on Internal Situation

NC1805144994 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 11 May 94 p 4

[Interview with Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Shaykh Na'im Qasim by unidentified CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] How does Hizballah view recent developments in the Christian arena in general, and specifically the detention of Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja'?

[Qasim] The files that were opened recently—files that had to do with the party behind the Sayyidat al-Najat explosion—were justified by the circumstances that almost disrupted civil peace and did a great service to the Israeli enemy. We are not in a position of authority that would allow us to opens other people's files. We do not think anyone in the authority can distanced himself from these old files; once opened, these files will involve everyone without exception. I do not think that it is proper to do this at time when the civil war has ended and peace is returning. I think that there must be a distinction between a specific incident or group of incidents that pose a threat to modern Lebanon and things that happened years ago. The files of these years have been closed. Opening them would have a negative effect and will not achieve a sound result, in my view.

[Correspondent] Some people say that lifting the international cover of the Lebanese Forces will also lead to lifting Hizballah's cover, particularly the Syrian and Iranian protection, because of the party's links to the foreign hostages issue. What is your reaction to that?

[Qasim] The circumstances that made eyes focus on the Lebanese Forces are unique to the Lebanese Forces, the only local Lebanese organization that rendered services to the Israeli enemy by engaging in domestic sedition. This does not apply to Hizballah, which seeks to liberate the land, drive the Israeli enemy out of the south and the western al-Biqa', spread peace among the people, and serve the community. Hizballah did not gain power in the Lebanese arena through dreadful acts; it got its status through its sincerity, major sacrifices, and the blood of innocent martyrs who served not only the Islamic cause, but also the Lebanese cause in the region and helped the free people in the Arab and Muslim worlds.

Hizballah cannot be the object of a decision that some official makes behind his desk on a personal whim. Hizballah's roots at the popular and political levels, its relations at the local and regional levels, and its sincerity in confronting the Israeli enemy give it a kind of organic immunity that prevents anyone from gambling with it. We are not a bunch of isolated partisan offices; we are a deeply-rooted popular movement known to all responsible leaders in this country.

As for the foreign hostages, we repeated several times in the past that we have absolutely no connection with that file. There is no sense in reopening that file, because we settled the ramifications of that issue at the time. The files that should be opened are those hot issues that concern the citizens, including social services, preventing sedition, the right of the opposition express its views, and freedom for the media. These files should be opened instead of files from the past that could confuse things or seek to settle accounts with some people.

As for Hizballah, we do not rely on any international cover for our local existence. You say that some people ask whether the cover will be lifted from Hizballah now that it has been lifted from the Lebanese Forces. The way the West deals with Samir Ja'ja' and what he stands for is generally different from the way they deal with Hizballah. We are fighters at the international level, because we do not tolerate the continued occupation of our lands.

[Correspondent] How does Hizballah view the hangings and the recent executions in Lebanon?

[Qasim] Islamic shari'ah says that a killer should be executed if he murders deliberately. This is to deter criminals. We in Hizballah back the idea of executions, of hanging premeditated murderers until the criminals are deterred and in order not to make crime an easy option.

[Correspondent] Some believe that things will get worse if the domestic situation keeps on its current course. How does Hizballah view the need to close all domestic files?

[Qasim] We understand the meaning of balances of rights and duties and the need for mutual coexistance. But we do not understand this balance to mean taking the innocent with the guilty to achieve sectarian equality. Had the Sayyidat al-Najat Church crime been committed by Muslims, the same measures that were taken against the Lebanese Forces should have been taken against Muslims, if they were directly accused. That horrible act was committed by a team of Christians, so they have to pay the price for harming people, violating

a place of worship, and terrorizing a sector of the Lebanese people. But opening files in every direction is not an objective measure; it ruins Lebanon. Whoever makes mistakes and undermines public peace must be punished. But settling accounts or seeking to control things one way or another under the banner of the authority or anything else is totally unacceptable.

When, after members of the Lebanese Forces were arrested on charges of blowing up the Sayyidat al-Najat Church, the Lebanese Forces party was dissolved and the decision made to suspend radio and television newscasts, we said this was a mistake and futile, short-sighted measures because taking vengeance on the audiovisual media and settling accounts with the opposition on the pretext of punishing those who blew up the church reflects a narrow-minded outlook and a domineering tendency to silence every opposition voice in the country. Such a measure can never succeed. We are the only state in the region that is accustomed to responsible and candid freedom of expression. We back any political practice that refrains from using force to impose some party's views on others. Let us all compete to win grassroots support. Whoever manages to apply the available peaceful methods assumes a certain status and plays a certain role in the service of the Lebanese citizen, provided that force is not used to disrupt security or impose one's views on others as a way of putting pressure on the masses.

The Christians' frustration has objective causes that have to do with the performance of Christian political leaders. The bloody conflicts that raged in the eastern area [of Beirut] as part of a power struggle and the way some Christian parties dealt with the grassroots level and with Christian citizens led to that development and created an atmosphere of frustration among Christians in general and the Maronites in particular. Those bloody confrontations could have been averted. We in Hizballah believe that rectifying that internal situation requires that all Lebanese citizens be dealt with on the basis of actual developments. These developments require an Islamic-Christian openness, free of tribal fanaticism.

Christopher's Damascus Visit Reported, Assessed

Christopher Meets With al-Asad

JN1805154794 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in the People's Palace at 1130 today. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Dennis Ross, the U.S. Middle East peace coordinator.

Christopher conveyed to the president a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton in which he emphasizes the U.S. desire to continue its efforts to realize substantive progress in the peace process.

President Hafiz al-Asad expressed his appreciation for the U.S. efforts and stressed Syria's desire to continue the peace process to realize a just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli dispute in accordance with international resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Mr. Christopher briefed the president on the results of his talks in Israel which demonstrated that the differences are wide and great because of the large distance between the Israeli stand and the pillars of peace which were established at the Madrid conference. In this regard, the president reaffirmed Syria's stand and its adherence to the bases of the peace process based on UN Security Council resolutions which commit Israel to full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders in order to realize just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Spokesman: 'Far Apart' From Israel

NC1805154194 Paris AFP in English 1500 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Damascus, May 18 (AFP)—Syria and Israel are still far apart over moves towards peace after US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest Middle East mission, Syrian presidential spokesman Jubran Kuriyah said Wednesday [18 May].

"The results of Mr. Christopher's talks in Israel show that there are still wide differences because of the Israeli position on the principles of peace," he said.

Christopher left for Egypt on Wednesday after a second round of talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, when he briefed the Syrian leader on his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Israel has offered a withdrawal from the strategic Golan heights over several years in return for total peace, but the Syrian official press on Wednesday rejected any phased handover. The Golan has been the main stumbling block between Israel and Syria since the launch of Middle East peace talks in October 1991.

Negotiations between Syria and Israel have been suspended since the Hebron massacre on February 25 when a Jewish settler killed 30 Arab worshipers.

Issues 'Remarkably Difficult'

JN1905055294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and his accompanying delegation left Damascus at 1615 yesterday. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian ambassador in Washington, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

The U.S. secretary of state arrived in Cairo yesterday, Wednesday, evening. He met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Christopher said he believes that Syria is serious about Middle East peace.

Following his meeting with President Mubarak, Christopher told reporters that the negotiations are facing a long road, and that the issues are remarkably difficult.

In press statements on his arrival in Cairo, Christopher said he held good and constructive talks with officials in Syria and Israel. He explained that during his meetings several proposals were discussed. These proposals concern achieving a breakthrough in the peace process on the Syrian track. Christopher expressed optimism despite the existence of some difficult topics that need further talks with both sides. He said he naturally found points of convergence and difference. However, we will continue the rounds of talks to reach a solution and achieve a breakthrough on all tracks, he added.

Press Views Visit, Israeli Stand

JN1905074194 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 May 94

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Facts of the Peace Process Anew," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: During his reception of the U.S. secretary of state yesterday, leader al-Asad reemphasized several facts concerning Syria's position on the peace process. These facts are among the bases on which the Middle East peace process was established when Syria accepted this process and gave an opportunity for its launching through the Madrid conference.

AL-BA'TH explains that among these facts is Syria's care for continuing the peace process and its appreciation of the U.S. efforts designed to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. The paper asserts that achieving this objective is linked to the commitment to the bases and principles on which the peace process was established. This process emanates from the resolutions of both the United Nations and international legitimacy, led by the commitment to the land-for-peace principle.

The paper holds Israel responsible for the stumbling bilateral negotiations. Israel has not ceased its attempts to circumvent the peace process, the paper says. These

Israeli positions prove to everyone that Israel's acceptance of the peace initiative was formal in the first place. This acceptance also conceals intentions that reject a just solution.

The paper points out that Israel always seeks to depart from the bases and substance of the peace process, and to shirk the commitment to the initiative which was accepted on the Arab, regional, and international levels. This was confirmed yesterday through the [Israeli] replies Christopher carried to Damascus.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Israel is the only party that is undermining the peace initiative and threatening regional stability through intransigent positions and dictates that are not in harmony with the substance of the peace process.

Concluding its comment, AL-BA'TH wonders: To what extent can Israel continue its refusal to respond to both the international community and the cosponsors of the peace conference? The near future, however, may answer this question.

Under the headline "Israel Is Undermining the Peace Efforts," the newspaper TISHRIN says: After he was briefed on the outcome of Christopher's talks in Israel, President Hafiz al-Asad explained that differences between the Syrian and Israeli positions are wide and great because the Israeli side departed from the bases and requirements of the peace process.

Discussing the Israeli positions based on intransigence and procrastination, the paper adds: The rulers of Israel have foiled all efforts designed to remove the peace talks from their deadlock. The paper explains that Syria worked for a real and substantial launching of the peace process, and also supported the U.S. Administration's efforts designed to place the peace process on the right path.

TISHRIN continues: In brief, the Rabin government wants to annex the territories. Thus, this government's talk about peace is no more than a cheap maneuver designed to mislead world public opinion and create a false optimism that the peace process is achieving progress. The paper notes that Syria absolutely believes in peace and that it continues to make every possible effort to promote the peace process. The paper emphasizes that Syria adheres to regaining the entire Golan and other occupied territories and to Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. It is not a Syrian tradition to sell out an iota of national soil or any Arab right. This is because peace should be just and comprehensive.

TISHRIN points out that the proposed Israeli settlements are actually a consecration of occupation and an open disregard of both the Security Council resolutions and the international community's principles and charters.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: Peace can be achieved by resorting to the international law and not by entrenching and spreading the law of the jungle. The rulers of Israel should realize that all their alleged peace plans would fail because Syria is the Arabs' conscience and also because the Arabs will only accept what Syria accepts.

Under the headline "Complete Withdrawal First," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: At a time when Syria showed full cooperation with both the U.S. initiative and efforts designed to promote the peace process in implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy, Israel showed much disregard of international principles, UN charters, and the legitimacy of the relevant UN resolutions rejecting the Israeli occupation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Despite the apparent future difficulties and traps facing the Cairo agreement and obstructing its implementation, it seems Israel has not yet learned the lesson that lame peace settlements cannot make a durable peace, that peace does not mean there is a winner or a loser, and that peace does not imply concluding cheap deals based on bargains.

The paper says all observers have no difficulty in discovering that the real Israeli position is pushing the peace process toward numerous bargains, now that Israel has placed obstacles and demonstrated intransigence about this process. The paper explains that there is a great difference between someone who wants a complete, just, and comprehensive peace, and someone who wants to tamper with the components of such a peace, ridicules the resolutions of international legitimacy, and discounts the international will on the other.

The paper adds: Christopher's regional tour has shown that differences [between Syria and Israel] are still wide because the Israeli position departs from the bases and requirements of the peace process launched in Madrid.

AL-THAWRAH points out that Syria cares for the continuation of the peace process. As President Hafiz al-Asad asserted, the objective is to achieve a just and comprehensive solution in accordance with both the international resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH notes: As President al-Asad said, Syria adheres to the pillars of the peace process, which is based on the Security Council resolutions. These resolutions stipulate full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders in order to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Thus, complete Israeli withdrawal is the first and foremost priority under all circumstances.

Correspondent Denies Story on Government Reshuffle

JN1905113094 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 May 94 p 3

[From "Letters to the Editor"]

[Text] Mr. Chief Editor:

Greetings,

With reference to the report published yesterday on the formation of a new Government in Syria under "Major General" Hikmat al-Shihabi, I would like to clarify the following:

First: The report was datelined ""Damascus, AL-DUSTUR" which suggests that I was its source. This is untrue. I had nothing to do with that report.

Second: It seems that the report did not originate from Damascus in the first place. The chief of staff in Syria holds the rank of a "lieutenant general" and not a "major general," as mentioned in the report. This makes one conclude that the author of the report is very far from understanding Syrian affairs.

Third: Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi is widely respected among all Syrian and non-Syrian circles. I find it inappropriate to mention his name just like that whenever one wants to talk about the a government formation.

Fourth: There is nothing in Syrian political circles to suggest any potential reshuffle in the current Syrian Government, which is headed by Engineer Mahmud al-Zu'bi, especially since it recorded several achievements which cannot be mentioned here.

Sixth [as published]: The concerned circles in Damascus have not commented on this report. Nor have they reacted to similar reports published in the past.

I will be grateful if you publish this clarification. With my best regards.

[Signed] 'Ali Jamalu, AL-DUSTUR correspondent in Damascus

Arab League Chief Praises al-Asad, Departs

JN1805191694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 18 May 94

[Excerpt] Damascus—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has praised President Hafiz al-Asad's patriotic and pan-Arab stands toward Arab causes, his defense of Arab legitimate rights, and his adherence to the just and comprehensive peace march. In a statement to SANA upon his departure to Cairo today, accompanied by the Arab League delegation, he said: I have had the honor to meet with President Hafiz al-Asad during my visit to Damascus to attend the 26th round of the Joint Arab Action Higher Coordination Committee. I briefed the president on the positive results of the committee's meetings in terms of strengthening cooperation and joint Arab action.

'Abd-al-Majid said: It was a good opportunity to hear the president's directives and opinions on the various Arab issues, particularly the Yemeni situation. The meeting was also a good opportunity to hear the president's views in this regard and to express my appreciation for the president's intensive efforts and endeavors in defending legitimate Arab rights and adhering to the just and comprehensive peace march in accordance with international legitimacy, the UN Security Council resolutions, and the land-for- peace principle.

Alluding to the results of the Arab League's Higher Coordination Committee meetings over which he presided, 'Abd-al-Majid said: They were fruitful. Recommendations and resolutions were reached connected with all issues on the agenda. The results were positive and effective in terms of strengthening the march of joint Arab action in all domains at the present stage. [passage omitted].

Afghanistan

Mazar-e Sharif Airport Forced To Shut Down

LD1805163994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Mazar-e Sharif Airport cannot be used for flights. Bakhtar has received reports from Mazar-e Sharif that during recent days the airport, from where aircraft of the infamous militias [word indistinct], has been under heavy weapon fire by Mojahedin and forces of the Islamic Army. This airport has been put out of operation completely.

Kabul Rocket Blast Kills 20, Wounds 30

BK1905102994 Hong Kong AFP in English 1018 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Kabul, May 19 (AFP)—At least 20 people were killed and 30 wounded in the Afghan capital Thursday [19 May], when a rocket hit a crowded checkpoint controlled by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-i-Islami forces, witnesses said.

The rocket struck as scores of people gathered at the checkpoint in the Chelsitoon area in south Kabul, waiting to stock up with supplies in the Hezb-held part of the city, ahead of this weekend's Moslem Eid festival.

Locals said the rocket was fired from a hill controlled by troops loyal to Hekmatyar's rival, President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Scores of people had rushed to the checkpoint following an announcement on Hezb radio that a blockade of routes to the centre of the capital had been lifted because of the religious festivities.

"I decided to shop at Chelsitoon in the hope of getting essentials for our family at cheaper rates and look what has happend to me," cried a 35-year old woman, who lost one leg.

Meanwhile, fighting was reported around Maidan Shahr, a city about 30 kilometers west of here, in the Wardak province.

The defence ministry said Wednesday that pro-Rabbani forces had overrun the city, but the claim was denied by the Hezb-i-Islami.

A fighter from Ittihad-i-Islami faction, which is allied to Rabbani, said: "Our forces hold the key hills around Maidan Shahr."

The man, who was undergoing hospital treatment here, said he arrived from Maidan Shahr area Thursday after being wounded in the fighting.

"We got orders to withdraw from the city, even though we had captured the it in a very easy fight," he said.

The International Commitee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in April that 2,500 poeple had been killed and 17,000 injured in the fighting betwe@n the forces of Rabbani and the combined troops of Hezb and Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam, since the beginning of January.

Hekmatyar To Allow Supplies Into Kabul During 'Id

LD1905093894 Tehran IRNA in English 0838 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Peshawar, May 19, IRNA—The Afghan Coordination Council led by Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar Wednesday [18 May] announced that all roads leading to Kabul will be open for three days to allow transportation to Kabul during Eid-ul-Azha ['Id al-Adha—feast of immolation] Muslim festivity, May 12.

In a statement here, the council said that governmental as well as non-governmental organizations could carry all sorts of relief supplies to Kabul but with the guarantee that it would not be served for military purposes and would be distributed among the citizens of the city.

Kabul has been scene of the longest round of fightings since early January when allied forces of Hekmatyar and 'Abdol Rashid Dostum clashed with forces of President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

According to Afghan sources, the rival Afghan factions are presently locked in severe fighting in two provinces, Baghlan and Konduz, to capture strategic positions. Meanwhile, armed personnel of Hekmatyar and Sayyaf have been fighting since Tuesday in Maydan Shahr in Wardak Province.

Resolution Passed on Criminal, Terrorist Activity

LD1805220394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Presided over by Mawlawi Morad Ali Morad, acting president and vice president of the Supreme Court of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the court passed the following resolution, taking into account Article 36 of the law on the court's jurisdiction and on organization and international norms:

1. [passage indistinct]

2. Those citizens of various foreign countries who have crossed the border and have entered the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan or embark on terrorism in Afghanistan, will be extradited to their countries of origin after [words indistinct] and the (?decision) of a competent court, taking into account the authority of the state.

3. Those Afghan nationals who embark on seduction and commit crime against the foreign and internal security of Afghanistan, or against the sovereignty of the Islamic

State of Afghanistan, will be punished in accordance with the penal laws of the country.

4. Observing the criminal law of Afghanistan and other laws of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, Afghanistan's embassies and diplomatic missions abroad, while looking at the status of Afghan nationals in those countries, shall fulfill their duties for the preparation of ground for the extradition of that kind of person.

5. The administration of the attorney general and the organs of detection and prosecution will discharge their legal obligations and duties in capturing and dealing with that kind of person.

India

Rao Leads High-Level Delegation to U.S.

Departs on 7-Day, 4-City Visit

BK1405101794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, has left New Delhi this morning for the United States. He was seen off at the airport by his cabinet colleagues, chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh, the governor of Uttar Pradesh and senior officials. The seven-day visit will take Mr. Narasimha Rao to four cities, including the capital Washington and will enable him to meet a broad segment of the Clinton Administration, congressmen, and business circles.

Our correspondent, M. Rama Rao, covering the visit, says the main thrust of the prime minister's talks will be on enhanced economic and investment cooperation between the two countries. India will also reiterate its position on sensitive issues like Nuclear Nonproliferation, arms control, human rights, and Kashmir to the U.S. leaders. The Clinton-Rao talks slated for Thursday are expected to be open and frank, giving the leaders an opportunity to appreciate each other's point of view on world issues as also matters of mutual concern.

A high-level official delegation is accompanying the prime minister. It includes the finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salaman Khurshid; and the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi. A 21-member trade delegation drawn from the three apex bodies of Indian industry is also accompanying the prime minister to help forge enhanced Indo-U.S. economic relations. The highlights of the visit include an address by Mr. Narasimha Rao to a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress and the lecture at the prestigious Harvard University.

Says Economic Reform 'Irreversible'

BK1605110594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The prime minister has asked the nonresident Indians, NRIs, to play their legitimate role in the speedy development of the country. Addressing a large gathering of NRIs in New York, Mr. Narasimha Rao asked them to evaluate for themselves the reform process without attaching any emotions. He emphatically stated that the economic changes underway in India are irreversible. The prime minister invited them to take advantage of the opportunities and invest in the country to help expand and strengthen the economic liberalization process. He said that structural hurdles posed at the initial stages have been overcome and there is a turnaround now. The prime minister appreciated the good work being carried out by the NRIs in various walks of life outside the country.

Our correspondent Rama Rao, covering the prime minister's visit, reports from New York that Mr. Narasimha Rao will be meeting the captains of industry at Houston today in the second leg of his visit to the United States. He described the visit as a step towards a strong, friendly, and cordial cooperation between the two great democracies of the world. During his one-day stay in Houston, the prime minister will be meeting the chief executive officers and presidents of the major companies under the auspices of the Greater Houston Partnership. The partnership brings together over 2,000 companies based in the city. The mayor of Houston will be presenting the keys of the city to Mr. Narasimha Rao. The prime minister will attend an Indian community reception before leaving for Boston tomorrow.

Our special correspondent Bhupal Inder Saini reports from Washington:

[Begin Saini recording] One of the primary objectives of the prime minister's goodwill visit to the United States is to explore the potentials and opportunities of stepping up Indo-American cooperation in the economic sphere. The United States is already India's largest trading partner and the economic reforms undertaken by New Delhi under Mr. Narasimha Rao's leadership had created tremendous opportunities for further stepping up economic links and trade. Significantly, a large number of leading Indian businessmen are also in the United States to tap the potential for tie-ups with American companies. [end recording]

Stresses Indian-U.S. Investment

BK1605153294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Top U.S. business executives have offered to make big investments in India. The rich Indian-American community has also indicated plans to provide their expertise and money for giving a push to the market friendly reform process. At their separate meetings with the prime minister, now on an official tour of

the United States, both American companies and the NRIs [nonresident Indians] appreciated the economic liberalization policy and said it has transformed India into a prospective market for greater inflow of funds. Mr. Narasimha Rao assured them that the Foreign Investment Promotion Board will look into any irritants in materializing their projects.

Our correspondent Rama Rao covering the prime minister's visit reports that the NRI plans include investments in highway construction and communications, as also mobilization of at least $2 billion every year. Mr. Narasimha Rao told the NRIs that they can play their legitimate role in the industrialization of the country and their investments have to increase as they go along.

Addressing a large section of the Indian-American community in New York, the prime minister said India means business and the future course is clear. His current visit is to project the giant leap the country is poised to take in industrial development and to give a personal undertaking over the irreversibility of the changed course. Mr. Rao asked the NRIs to participate in the present efforts based on their sound economic judgment. Commending the NRIs for the good work done in the country where they are living, he said they should keep it up. About Indo-U.S. ties, the prime minister said these need to be strong and friendly, not only for mutual benefit but for the future of mankind as a whole. The importance of his visit, he said, goes beyond the scope of normal bilateral relations.

The prime minister has since arrived in Houston on the second leg of his American tour. Mr. Narasimha Rao is scheduled to meet the chief executives and presidents of major companies under the auspices of the Greater Houston Partnership. The partnership brings together over 2,000 companies based in the city. Later, the mayor of Houston will be presenting the keys of the city to Mr. Narasimha Rao. He will also attend a reception by the Indian community before leaving for Boston tomorrow.

Courts 'Top American Companies'

BK1705053394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 May 94

[Excerpt] Top American companies have evinced interest in investing in the Indian infrastructural sector. At the roundtable meeting with the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, in Houston the chief executives of several companies expressed an upbeat mood to invest in India. Over 100 chief executive officers of major companies attended the meeting. The prime minister outlined the salient features of the economic reforms and invited American businessmen to become partners for further mutual benefit.

Our correspondent Rama Rao accompanying the prime minister reports that for the first time since the launching of economic reforms, the foreign investors focussed attention on specific pattern of their projects. In another significant change, the investors themselves have analyzed the relative advantages of various markets in South Asia and have ranked India well above others. Our correspondent further states that the new projects outlined at the meeting include the setting up of a commercial bank, mining and exploitation of bauxite in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa, and a computer company.

A heavy schedule awaits the prime minister when he arrives in Washington DC tonight on the last leg of his week-long visit to the United States. [passage omitted]

Arrives in Washington

BK1805041994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The prime minister has arrived in Washington for wide-ranging talks with President Clinton. During his stay in the U.S. capital, Mr. Narasimha Rao will meet the decision makers and exchange views on bilateral and international matters. He will address the joint meeting of the U.S. Congress today. The Rao-Clinton talks tomorrow are expected to break new ground in bilateral relations. This will be their first meeting and also the first high-level contact between the two countries since the end of the cold war. Expansion of economic cooperation and better appreciation of each other's stand on issues like nuclear nonproliferation are likely to be the focus. Indian officials say that the Clinton Administration wanted the summit meeting to cover the situation in Russia, the role of the United Nations in peacekeeping, and the Nonaligned Movement.

Shortly before leaving for Washington, Mr. Narasimha Rao said in Boston that an important purpose of his current visit is to invite America to join the Indian efforts for speedy industrialization and infrastructure development. Delivering the (Joe Deddy) memorial lecture at the Harvard University, the prime minister said true North-South cooperation demands collaboration between the developed countries which have a huge research and development base and the developing countries. He also called for development of new technologies that can result in creation of maximum number of jobs at minimum cost. The (Joe Deddy) memorial lecture established in 1955 is for the promotion of tolerance, understanding, and goodwill among the nations, particularly the East and the West. Rajiv Gandhi and V.S. Naipaul were the prominent personalities who delivered the lecture in the past. The prime minister spoke at length about the Indian scene and the economic reform process. He said globalization of economies should be on the basis of partnership and should be a smooth affair. Amid lusty cheers from the audience, Mr. Rao declared that despite occasional clashes and agitations India will remain united with its unmatched attractions.

The former U.S. ambassador to India and noted economist, Professor Galbraith, introducing the prime minister to the 1,000 strong student audience said India is America's most enduring friend. Prof. Galbraith said the bilateral relations are deep rooted and the so-called concerns belong to the realm of bureaucrats.

Commentary Previews Official Talks

BK1805044594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 May 94

[Commentary by All India Radio special correspondent Bhupal Inder Saini]

[Text] The prime minister is today launching upon two days of intensive interaction with decision makers in the United States—both in the political and economic spheres. Mr. Narasimha Rao will first of all address the joint meeting of both houses of the U.S. Congress today. He will be the first prime minister of any country to get the opportunity since Mr. Clinton took over as U.S. president. Mr. Narasimha Rao is expected to utilize it to spell out India's views on the emerging world scenario—both in the political and economic fields as well as regional and bilateral issues.

Significantly, the prime minister's address to the Congress became possible after several American senators as well members of the House of Representatives expressed their wish to hear in person the prime minister of the largest democracy in the world. It was not on the original schedule earlier. Mr. Narasimha Rao will have his first meeting with President Clinton tomorrow, when they have talks at the White House. After having lunch together, the two leaders will address a joint news conference. An atmosphere conducive to an open and frank Indo-U.S. dialogue has been created with both sides making clear their views on major world and regional issues. There is a large area of agreement though there are differences in perspective on some issues. Both sides recognized that there is need to make the world a secure place free from a threat of major conflagration. There is need for disarmament, especially in the nuclear field.

India has made it clear that it is prepared to discuss the question of disarmament, including nuclear nonproliferation, but real world security can be established in a comprehensive nondiscriminatory framework only. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty—NPT—is unacceptable to India in its present form as it is discriminatory and seeks to divide the world permanently into two categories—the nuclear haves and havenots. The Clinton Administration, which was earlier pressing for a regional NPT for South Asia has now shown understanding of India's viewpoint that such an arrangement cannot work. Nuclear weapons cannot be banished from the region just by two countries signing the NPT or a regional variation.

Another major focus of Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit is on strengthening Indo-American business ties. A large number of top Indian industrialists and business people are now in Washington having talks with their American counterparts on joint ventures and tie-ups. The finance minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, is also in the American capital to clear any doubts about the far-reaching character of India's economic reforms. The United States is already India's largest trading partner. But a full potential for greater economic cooperation is yet to be tapped. Hopefully, the interaction during Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit will lead to increased trade and economic cooperation.

Article Says U.S. South Asia Policy 'Bound To Fail'

BK1605135994 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 12 May 94 p 6

[Article by M. Satish: "U.S. South Asia Policy: Bound To Fail"]

[Text] The Clinton administration's new concept of a multilateral arrangement on nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia is unlikely to succeed. There are only two possibilities: either India changes its stance or it does not. The dialogue is obviously doomed to failure if India does not budge from its consistent stand that it would not accept any regional non-proliferation treaty and would only be party to a regime of nuclear non-proliferation, which is both non-discriminatory and universal in character. But would such an arrangement succeed if India bowed to international pressure and accepted some form of regional restraint?

Before considering why it would not the new US approach mooted at the London talks recently needs to be put in perspective. It has been evolved out of the special report on South Asia that US President Mr Bill Clinton presented to the US Congress on April 29 last year. The report virtually indicated the abandoning of the earlier proposal made by former Pakistan prime minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif, and tacitly backed by the US, wherein India and Pakistan would have signed a regional non-proliferation treaty, with the US, China and Russia being guarantors. India's objection then had been that China's presence as a guarantor was unacceptable because that country posed a security concern to India.

The most significant aspect that stood out in the report (and reflected in the new proposal) was a tacit acceptance of the Indian position that any durable solution to the nuclear imbroglio in the subcontinent would necessarily have to effectively address its concerns both over China's nuclear potential and the newly-developing nuclear uncertainty in the Central Asian Republics following the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

The US objectives, under the new approach, on the nuclear issue in the region are: first to cap, then over time reduce and finally eliminate the possession of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their means of delivery.

A unilateral or regional cut-off of fissile material production.

A regional agreement not to conduct nuclear detonations and placing safeguards on new and existing nuclear facilities.

Since President Clinton believes that the whole issue is a regional problem, it is worthwhile to consider what factors would influence or come in the way of a regional solution, especially in the context of his suggestion that while "each region is different, both countries can benefit from the ideas and experience that we have gained over the decade in arms control and CSBMs (confidence and security building measures) in discussions with the Soviet Union and others."

It is clear that the dialogue that the US is proposing is basically a replication of earlier arms control treaties that it had negotiated with the erstwhile USSR. However, there is one major problem in trying to apply the same to South Asia. Major breakthroughs in arms reduction talks between the two superpowers have always come along with significant thaws in political relations between them.

That is not the case between India and Pakistan. The mutual mistrust between the two since 1947 has shown no signs of improving and, if anything, the relationship is at its lowest ebb now. Due to the perverse logic of partition Pakistan's raison d'etre of being an Islamic state would, by extension, succeed only if India's secular experiment is seen to fail. This, added to the division of Pakistan in 1971 (the creation of Bangladesh) and the peculiar sub- continental social realities have only added to the growth of a disease of which Kashmir at symptom.

Therefore, a solution to the Kashmir issue would be central to a more basic thaw in bilateral relations and to the success of any future CSBMs on nuclear non-proliferation that may be agreed to. The US approach appears to be that an agreement on nuclear non-proliferation and CSBMs would reduce political tensions and lead to a solution on Kashmir (it may be recalled that the US is now talking of a "deep freeze" on Kashmir and concentrating on non- proliferation). The ground reality is precisely the opposite. A durable regional agreement on non-proliferation is possible only when the more fundamental issue of Kashmir is first satisfactorily resolved.

And for that to happen, the geo-strategic realities of the sub-continent at the moment warrant that a solution would necessarily have to take into account the strategic importance of J&K to China and other neighbouring countries.

It should be remembered that the state of Jammu and Kashmir shares a 350 km border with China's Xinkiang province. However, this area forms part of Pak-Occupied Kashmir (POK) and,—1963, Pakistan ceded the Raskam valley and the Taghdumbash Pamirs, north of the Karakoram mountains, to China. For China, therefore, the Xinkiang border from Siachen glacier to the occupied Aksai Chin area is with India, while further east it is with Pakistan. Since the area has immense strategic value to China, it has a vested interest in the solution (or lack of it) of the Kashmir dispute and cannot be considered as a disinterested party. China is very much an interested party in the Kashmir dispute by virtue of its holding Kashmir territory.

Other factors that need to be satisfactorily addressed before any regional non-proliferation agreement are India's security concerns vis-a-vis China arising out of its defeat in the 1962 war, the consequent border dispute, the China-Pakistan military axis and China's own attempts at improving its strategic depth in the region. China's professed commitments to non-proliferation are taken here with a pinch of salt. A glaring example is that despite professing adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 1992, The New York Times of May 6 last year first revealed that there was evidence from satellite photos that China was still shipping M11 missiles to Pakistan. If China is violating the objectives of the MTCR, what is the guarantee that it would adhere to any commitment that would essentially mean a break in the China-Pakistan military axis? Despite the thaw in bilateral relations during the last few years, there are very few in India who believe that China is altogether trustworthy.

Many Indian military experts and politicians still believe that with China's ambitions of becoming a superpower and achieving a semblance of nuclear parity with both the US and Russia, the most effective Indian response to this cannot but be to go about setting up a nuclear deterrent force and perfecting delivery systems to have the capability to hit back at important political, economic and military-industrial targets in China even after taking a first strike.

With such a volatile ground-level situation, the psyche of the people and politicians of the sub-continent is clearly not geared to adhering to any regional arms reduction or nuclear non-proliferation agreement while problems like Kashmir and terrorism continue to simmer.

In such a scenario—of passions running high over Kashmir, worsening Indo-Pak relations and China's overwhelming nuclear superiority vis-a-vis India—it would be unrealistic to have a workable regional non-proliferation a agreement, until the more fundamental issues facing the three countries are first satisfactorily dealt with.

Commentary Views Ties With U.S., Nuclear Issue

BK1405093094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 May 94

[Commentary by All India Radio special correspondent B.I. Saini]

[Text] The United States pushing for India signing the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] on agreeing to a regional variant has for long been an irritant in the growth of relations between the two countries. [sentence as heard] The American attitude has been that full scope

safeguards in the subcontinent are necessary to ensure that tensions between India and Pakistan do not erupt into war with the possibility of a nuclear exchange. The American policy failed to recognize three vital elements of the situation in South Asia.

If India had wanted to develop nuclear weapons capability, it would have done so right after the peaceful test at Pokhran in 1974. Secondly, Pakistan has been clandestinely developing nuclear weapons capability even when claiming that it does not have any nuclear bombs. Another crucial aspect ignored or not given due weight by the American policymakers was that India's security concerns were not confined to the threat from Pakistan alone.

The Clinton Administration's latest report to the U.S. Congress on progress toward regional nonproliferation in South Asia, which came just on the eve of the prime minister's visit, is in a way a step forward from earlier reports. It recognizes that while dealing with weapons proliferation in South Asia, the United States and others have to take into account regional security threat perceptions, including those extending beyond India and Pakistan. The report indicates adoption of a more realistic attitude by the United States toward the objectives of stopping the proliferation of nuclear and other mass destruction weapons in South Asia. But, so far as the question of supply of more weapons and equipment like F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan is concerned, the United States is still sticking to its earlier plan to give these aircraft to Islamabad in return for capping of Pakistan's nuclear program. It fails to recognize that supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan is only going to trigger off an arms race in the subcontinent. So far as India is concerned, it has made abundantly clear in the past that it will not sign the NPT, as it is discriminatory. It seeks to divide the world into nuclear haves and have-nots. The Clinton Administration report indicates that there is scope for India and the United States discussing the NPT issue further so that differences in their perceptions can be narrowed down. In any case, the Narasimaha Rao-Clinton talks on Thursday will enable the two leaders to see each other's viewpoint more clearly.

Commentary Examines Scope for U.S. Investment

BK1705055894 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 May 94

[Commentary by All India Radio correspondent M. Rama Rao]

[Text] If Davos had set the stage three years ago for projecting India as a new destination for investment, Houston, the number two city for business in the United States, has taken the campaign into the drawing rooms of the multinational chief executives. This is evident from the response at the round table session organized in honor of the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, by the Greater Houston Partnership, an umbrella trade body of over 2,600 U.S. companies.

The other indicators of improving India's (?option) are numerous requests for a meeting with Mr. Narasimha Rao soon after he landed in New York. The questions to him and the finance minister reflect the upbeat mood among the U.S. business and financial companies which are trying to diversify into the Asia-Pacific and the Southeast Asia region. They find the Indian Government's liberalization program and incentives quite attractive for investment. They now consider India as number one for new investments. The Indian side once again tried to project the infrastructural sector as a priority area.

Houston is called the energy capital of the world with industries dealing with power, hydrocarbons, electronics, computers, medicines, and food processing. One power and oil major has already entered the Indian scene and some others are on the way. The power company's chief executive, Mr. Kenneth Lay, says his Indian experience proves to the world the old maxim that investments are also a matter of good faith. The statement made apparently in good faith as his company was the first to enter the untested waters when the power sector was thrown open. Computer-related materials, aluminum production, technology transfer projects relating to rail transportation, information and health are among the areas that may be resulting in a lot of investment activities in the wake of the prime minister's visit to Houston. For a change, the business community also seems to be equally concerned about the poor and is anxious to join our efforts in poverty alleviation programs.

Details of Direct Foreign Investment Reported

BK1705054094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] About 14,300 crore rupees of direct foreign investment has been approved since August 1991. Over 80 percent of the investment went to priority industries with fuel and oil refinery sector accounting for a maximum of 2,395 crore rupees, followed by the power sector, food processing, metallurgical industries and electrical equipment and electronics. The actual inflow of foreign investment including NRI [nonresident Indian] investment amounted to 3,406 crore rupees. The maximum investment worth 650 crore rupees was from the United States followed by Britain and Germany.

Government Throws Open Telecom Services

BK1605152094 Madras BUSINESS LINE in English 14 May 94 p 1

[Text] The Government has thrown open the basic telecom services for the private sector shedding its long-held monopoly.

It would also have 'suitable arrangements' (preferably a regulatory authority) to implement the policy allowing

the private sector into the basic services. The much-awaited national telecom policy was announced in both Houses of Parliament today.

The Government, however, did not intend to change the present part departmental, part corporation structure of the telecom sector. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Mahanagar Telecommunications Ltd (MTNL) would be allowed to remain in the present form along with the private sector entities in providing the basic telephone service, in voice, data and other connections.

The announcement heralding a new era in the telecom sector was made by the Minister of State for Communications, Mr. Sukh Ram, after the Union Cabinet cleared the policy at its meeting earlier in the day. The minister later addressed a press conference giving details of the policy.

'With a view to supplementing the effort of the DoT in providing telecommunications services to the people, companies registered in India will be allowed to participate in the area of basic telephone services also', the new policy said. Various international telecom companies had already put in proposals worth $3 billion offering to run telephone services in various parts of the country. The new policy clears the hurdles in their joining the Indian network.

Mr. Sukh Ram announced at the press conference that the Government would fix the telecom tariff and a decision on the regulatory body to ensure competition and interface problems would be taken at a later date. He felt that India had one of the lowest telephone tariffs and he wanted that status to be maintained. Mr Sukh Ram noted that the 0.8 per cent telephone density was much below the world average of 10 per cent.

The new policy also announced revised targets for the telecom sector for the Eighth Plan and noted that additional resources required to achieve the revised targets would be well over Rs. 23,000 crores. 'Private investment and association of the private sector would be needed in a big way to bridge the resource gap,' the policy said. It went on to add that private initiative would be used to complement the departmental efforts to raise additional resources both through increased internal generation and adopting innovative means like leasing, deferred payments, build-operate-transfer (BOT), build-lease-transfer (BLT), build-transfer-operate (BTO) etc.

About the private participation, the policy noted that 'these companies will be required to maintain a balance in their coverage between urban and rural areas. Their conditions of operation will include agreed tariff and revenue sharing agreements. Other terms applicable to such companies will be similar to those indicated for value added services'.

'In order to implement the above policy, suitable arrangements will have to be made to (a) protect and promote the interests of the consumers and (b) ensure fair competition,' the policy said indicating the formation of a regulatory authority.

Introduction to the policy document said the telecom services of world class quality are necessary for the success of the new economic policy.

To achieve the new policy objectives the Government also announced the revised targets for the Eighth Plan. According to the new targets, telephone should be made available on demand by 1997. All villages should be covered by 1997. In the urban areas a PCO [public call office] should be provided for every 500 persons by 1997. All value-added services available internationally should be introduced in India to raise the telecom services to international standards, preferably by 1996.

Even with the comparatively modest targets of the Eighth Plan, as originally fixed, there is a resource gap of Rs. 7,500 crores. The additional resources required to achieve the revised targets would be over Rs. 23,000 crores. 'Clearly, this is beyond the capacity of Government funding and internal generation of resources,' the policy said.

About the value added services, the policy pointed out that apart from continuing with the tendering system, the track record of the company, compatibility of the company, usefulness of the technology being offered for future development, protection of national security interests, ability to give the best quality of service to the consumer at the most competitive cost and attractiveness of the commercial terms to the DoT would also be criteria for selection to award licence.

The policy also encourages introduction of new technologies. 'Pilot projects will be encouraged directly by the Government in order to access new technologies, new systems in basic as well as value added services'. The policy emphasises the need for administration of the telecom sector in such a way that the inflow of technology is made easy and India does not lag behind in getting full advantage of the emerging new technologies.

Minister Rejects Foreign Mediation in Kashmir

BK1605041394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Government has an open mind to discuss the problems of Jammu and Kashmir directly with the concerned people who can help solve the situation. Speaking at Chandigarh yesterday, the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said any mediation by foreign forces is not acceptable. Mr. Pilot said subversive elements will be dealt with a strong hand. Mr. Pilot appreciated the people of the state for coming out openly against terrorism and said the situation has improved in the valley during the last six months.

Iran

Official Reiterates Denial of Bosnia Arms Shipments

LD1905083394 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, May 19, IRNA—Iran Wednesday [18 May] categorically denied allegations by an American newspaper on the dispatch of arms and ammunitions to Bosnia-Herzegovina. Iran's deputy permanent representative at the United Nations Gholam 'Ali Khoshrow made the remark in a letter to Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, chairman of the Security Council committee established pursuant to Resolution 724 concerning Yugoslavia.

The 'WASHINGTON POST' in an article on May 13, 1994 made a baseless claim that an Iranian 747 Boeing airliner which landed at Zagreb Airport, carried 60 tons of explosives and other materials used in manufacturing ammuniton for Bosnian Muslims. Sardenberg, in separate letters had asked Iran and Croatia to comment on the allegations of 'WASHINGTON POST'.

Khoshrow stressed Iran's commitment to comply with the decisions of the Security Council concerning the situation in former Yugoslavia including Resolution 713. "The plane referred to in the said article was involved in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in continuation of the policy of the Iranian Government to provide humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina," he said.

Khoshrow reminded the chairman that upon the publication of the WASHINGTON POST's article, the Iranian Embassy in Zagreb officially denied the allegations and stated that the plane in question carried only humanitarian assistance.

Mosque 'Catastrophe,' Christopher Visit Viewed

NC1905080594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 19 May 94

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The Zionists have perpetrated another catastrophe by attacking the worshippers in the Bab al-Zawiyah mosque in al-Khalil and killing 20 of them. Observers say this Zionist action is the biggest attack on the Muslims since the killing of worshippers in the al-Khalil mosque.

The attack on the worshippers in Bab al-Zawiyah took place when nearly 160 political observers were stationed in al-Khalil to safeguard peace. This attack in the presence of international observers exposes the reality that the Zionists have no respect for international observers and, in view of their racist characteristics, they capitalize on every opportunity to suppress the Muslims.

This attack on worshippers in the Bab al-Zawiyah mosque took place when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Tel Aviv within his Middle East tour and a visit to Jericho was on his agenda. The objective of the U.S. secretary's visit to Syria and Tel Aviv was to open the doors to negotiations between them. With his trip to Jericho, he sought to convey U.S. support for the compromising accord and for the progress of the talks.

With the U.S. secretary's visit to the region and the talks that took place, efforts were made to project the process of compromise as a means of ending the Middle East crisis. But the protest of the Muslims of the occupied territories and their suppression by the Zionist regime has proved that signed accords are of no use. Even though the accords are formulated by the compromising leaders and were implemented from on high with the support of foreign powers, the trend of the struggle continues through the masses of the people of occupied Palestine. As long as these protesting masses who are considered the true masters of Palestine do not achieve their dreams, accords will produce no results.

Criticism of Saudi Hajj Actions Continues

Khamene'i Eyes Pilgrims' Treatment

LD1805124394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1003 GMT 18 May 94

[Speech by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, in Tehran on 18 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] If the great Islamic ummah throughout the world accepts that they have been negligent of Islam, if the world Muslims admit that they have taken the wrong road in following anti-Islamic powers, that they have erred in accepting the corrupt and beguiling culture of the west. If they own up to that, their path will be clear and they will be able to reform themselves.

Global propaganda seeks to mislead nations so that they will be unable to understand what is right and what is wrong. You can see this propaganda, these scintillating global advertisements, and hear these radio broadcasts, how they try to publicize political matters, economic ideas, consumer goods, and other similar things.

The Iranian nation, which succeeded in creating a resurrection in this world, which succeeded in reawakening a world, and managed to create a great transformation, this nation's main secret for achieving this success lies in its decision to alter its wrong and false route. This nation realized that pursuing the line of the oppressors and tyrants and the satanic kings is wrong and it is also wrong to remain silent before them. This nation changed course from this wrong path and as a result reached prosperity and salvation. The Iranian nation has opened a path for other world nations to follow. This path of yours is today

desired, sought and pursued by all the Muslim intellectuals, and by those who have an alert conscience in the Islamic world. This is the path to salvation. The path of salvation means liberating ourselves from imposition and domination of arrogant powers.

Unfortunately some Islamic countries have not found this path. Some Muslim nations have not been lucky enough to achieve this success yet. The traitorous and corrupt leaders have not allowed the nations to find their way.

About the problems facing the pilgrims in the hajj rituals this year, what I can say at the moment is: I am very sorry to see that some individuals are preventing the rise of monotheism cry in the center of monotheism and next to the house of monotheism. At the moment I do not wish to say anything about the behavior of the Hijaz rulers and authorities. We are waiting to see how they are going to treat our pilgrims. Thousands of our people are there today and we are following every minute detail of their problems. We hope that they will complete their rituals, with the Almighty's help, in full comfort and health before returning home. The authorities of that place are dutybound to provide all means of comfort and health, as well as the means to allow them to perform their rights and rituals. This is their duty. We are waiting to see whether they will perform their duty toward the Iranian pilgrims fully and properly or not.

May Almighty God bless this auspicious occasion in the month of Dhi al-Hajjah to all Muslims and particularly to our dear people, our great and faithful nation. [passage omitted]

Saudis Seen 'Provoking Conflicts'

NC1805121894 Paris AFP in English 1020 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 18 (AFP)—An Iranian newspaper on Wednesday accused Saudi Arabia of provoking conflicts in the Islamic world, including Yemen and Afghanistan. The TEHRAN TIMES charged that Riyadh was opposed to peace between the north and south Yemenis and had previously done "everything to forestall the unification Yemen."

"The Saudis have been plotting in Yemen in the past few weeks, until they managed to impose a full-scale civil war on that country," the English-language daily said. The paper also accused Saudi Arabia of "instigating the civil war in Afghanistan and of using petrodollars to finance the conflict."

Officials and newspapers here have launched a wave of attacks on Saudi Arabia in the past two days, after Iran was forced to cancel an anti-US and anti-Israel rally by its pilgrims in Mecca.

The "deliverance from the Infidels" demonstration, which was to be held Tuesday, was called off after heavily-armed Saudi police reportedly besieged the Iranian pilgrimage quarter to prevent them from holding it. Tehran said it had cancelled the rally to "avoid a bloodbath."

Iran's speaker of parliament Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri condemned the ban on Tuesday and accused Riyadh of seeking to "please the United States." The Saudis "want to protect the interest of the United States. This is the main characteristic of American Islam," he said.

'Strong Protest' Lodged

LD1805192694 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1800 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The Saudi Arabian ambassador in our country was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today, where the Islamic Republic of Iran's strong protest to the Saudi Arabian Government was conveyed to him concerning the siege of the exalted leadership's mission in Mecca by Saudi police and security forces.

During the meeting, Ha'eri-Fumani, adviser to the foreign minister and general director for the Persian Gulf [title as heard], referred to the cancellation of the ceremony marking the disavowal of the infidels by the supervisor of the Islamic Republic of Iran's mission. This is as a result of the difficulties brought about made by the recent Saudi actions, which are considered to be contrary to diplomatic—and even humanitarian—conduct, and as being disruptive to bilateral relations.

The Saudi Arabian ambassador said that he will convey the raised matters to his country's authorities. He claimed that the security measures were envisaged in order to safeguard the security and health of the hajj pilgrims.

Saudi Moves 'Detrimental' to Islam

LD1905094894 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] Tehran, May 19, IRNA—The English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' Thursday said that Saudi Arabia for the past two decades has made efforts to alter the centuries-old concept of hajj. The daily wrote in its editorial that it was not solely a product of "Wahhabi house of Saud" but a declaration jointly engineered by the western forces of arrogance. It stressed that King Fahd, for understandable reasons, could not tolerate even peaceful demos against the U.S., Israel and other enemies of Islam on 'his' territory.

Turning to the deployment of Saudi security forces around the Iranian pilgrims headquarters this week, the paper noted that the heavy military concentration around the building was regarded as another recipe for disaster had the 'deliverance from unbelievers' rally taken place. "The world is not unaware of Saudi Arabia's military, political and economic ties with Washington and how American strategists (with due help from Britain) advise the royal family on everything from

gardening to foreign-policy making," wrote the article. "If Muslims unite," the daily suggested, "no earthly power can resist them. Evil powers are well aware of this and thus cannot bear to see hundreds and thousands of pilgrims condemning their interference in Muslim affairs."

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL concluded by saying that the Saudi rulers will never command the respect of the ummah for indulging in practices detrimental to the lofty cause of Islam and its followers. "They should open their eyes to the stark realities of today's world in which nations big and small want their leaders to get out of America's satanic orbit. For how long can the 'guardians of the holy shrines' keep alien interest on the top of their national agenda?"

Naval Maneuvers Commence in Northern Gulf

LD1805175694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] An amphibious maneuver codenamed Nasr-2 began yesterday in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf with the participation of various units of Imam Hoseyn Third Naval Region. The aims of the maneuver are maintaining combat readiness, gaining further experiences, assessing the capability of the participating forces in carrying out amphibious operations, as well as maintaining a continuous and widespread presence in the border waters of the Islamic homeland.

The Nasr-2 maneuver will continue for four days.

Two Missile Frigates Repaired, Returned to Service

LD1705174994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Two missile frigates have been repaired and today joined the naval fleet of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The repair work on the frigates Shamshir [sword] and Zubin [javelin] was carried out by experts at factories belonging to the First Naval Zone of Iran.

Also today, a reconditioned hovercraft joined Iran's First Naval Zone Armed Forces. To recondition a hovercraft, with less than 75 percent of the parts needing repair or replacement, would cost 4 million pounds [as heard] or its equivalent of hard currency in a Western country such as Britain.

Nation Said To Eschew 'Western-Inspired Arms Race'

LD1905104794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 19 May 94

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran will not take part in the Western-inspired arms race in the Persian Gulf. The commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy [Rear Admiral 'Ali Shamkhani], who is currently in Bandar-e 'Abbas, announced the above today and added that Western news agencies' propaganda that Iran is competing with other countries in the region in the purchase of arms and military equipment is false. He said: The arms race Westerners have started in our region is more profitable to them than arms races in other parts of the world. In fact, this is plundering the wealth of the Muslim people of the region.

The Navy commander also said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has to gain enough strength to protect 2,000 km of its marine border, but it believes it can strengthen its defensive capabilities by relying on its internal strengths and capabilities.

More 'Nonofficial' Contacts With Gulf States Advocated

NC1705175894 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 8 May 94 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "On the Margins of the Visit by the Kuwaiti Writers and Professors to the ETTELA'AT Institute"]

[Text] On the basis of a prepared program, a high-level delegation of Kuwaiti professors and writers visited the ETTELA'AT Institute and participated in a frank and cordial discussion with the editorial board. This constructive discussion can be assessed from the following viewpoints:

The distance between us and our co-religionist brothers and the lack of the proper conditions for creating an "atmosphere of discussion" with them, has only generated numerous ambiguities on both sides. These ambiguities could be clearly perceived in the nature of the issues raised by the Kuwaiti delegates. This places an immense responsibility on our shoulders and those of our colleagues in Kuwait and other Persian Gulf countries.

In other words, a regular exchange of opinions and ideas by nonofficial individuals on the regional level can provide a clear impression of the attitude of the officials and on the other hand, can prove to be an important factor in fostering greater closeness and understanding among the peoples.

The presence of the Kuwaiti guests in Iran and their discussions with their Iranian colleagues could prove to be the beginning of a new and dynamic move beneficial to the regional nations. For many years, despite Iran's constant declaration of its good intentions and its desire for extensive relations with other countries of the region based on good neighborliness, the fomenters of tension and those who wish to gain by generating tension have continued to spread propaganda to the contrary.

Adverse propaganda by the fomenters of tension from outside the region and by those pursuing illicit interests

has resulted in many of our brothers in this country adopting certain erroneous stances on the basis of this tension-creating propaganda. The cordial visit to Iran by a delegation of Kuwait professors, writers, and journalists marks the initiation of a wholesome trend of exchanging views and perceptions among those who play the greatest role in moulding the interests and inclinations of the officials and elucidating ideas for the peoples of the region.

Without doubt, a continuous exchange of opinions and the expansion of this trend to the regional level will help to eliminate many misunderstandings and fallacious conclusions; and the regional countries will thus achieve better mutual understanding. This will provide a suitable bedrock of culture, inclinations and joint interests, and will become a precursor for the creation of an "atmosphere of discussions and exchanges of views."

We take this opportunity of the visit of our Kuwaiti brothers to Iran to extend a similar invitation to all our colleagues in the other regional countries, to whom we wish to play host. Conversely, we are also ready to be guests in their countries. In this manner, our co-religionist brothers will be able to discuss various issues in a cordial way and so bring the nations closer together. We extend our hands to them to create this atmosphere of discussion and exchanges of views among nonofficial individuals (writers, journalists, university professors, and others who do not have any official restrictions) and to our colleagues in other countries of the region.

At least discussions among us will have the advantage of being held in a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, and the media and extraneous official influences will not be able to affect the opinions and inclinations of the people of the region. These influences are the factors that generate tension and create a climate of suspicion and hostility, and this path is to the detriment of the nations of the region.

Borujerdi Concludes Visit to Turkey

LD1805101094 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Ankara, May 17, IRNA—Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi conveyed President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message to his Turkish counterpart Suleyman Demirel in a meeting here Monday. During the meeting the two sides discussed Tehran-Ankara bilateral ties, situation in northern Iraq and the forthcoming visit to Iran of the Turkish president.

As Iraq's neighbors, Iran, Turkey and Syria are holding identical views on the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity. Also, in a meeting with Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Hikmet Cetin, the Iranian official discussed promotion of bilateral relations. Borujerdi concluded his one-day visit to Turkey and returned home Tuesday night.

Commentary Views Visit

LD1805212494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 18 May 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia and Pacific affairs who travelled to Turkey in order to convey the Iranian president Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's verbal message to the Turkish president, Mr. Suleyman Demirel, returned to Tehran at the end of his one day mission on Tuesday.

During the Iranian political envoy's meeting with the Turkish president, the two sides exchanged views on issues related to northern Iraq, bilateral, politico-economic ties and Mr. Demirel's forthcoming visit to Tehran in mid-summer.

During his brief stay in Ankara, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asia and Pacific affairs also called on the Turkish foreign minister and the two sides focused their discussion on bilateral issues.

Iran and Turkey have been exchanging views through the visits of their diplomatic delegations to the two countries during the past year and the level of the delegations ranged from deputy minister to first vice president level according to the significance of the issues under discussion.

The Turkish president's forthcoming visit, if it materializes, can be considered as the climax of such counselling since the new world conditions, such as the White House evolved new world order and the U.S. President's efforts aimed at spreading the same and imposing the wrong model on the rest of the world, as well as the emergence of the Central Asian republics and Iran's strategic geopolitical role in the region, have made ever greater understanding and closeness between Iran and Turkey inevitable.

This is significant when the critical situation in northern Iraq, which apparently claims to have a kind of independence, can actually be a bitter and critical beginning or a political test for the division of countries in the region. In view of the significance of the issue and not withstanding the two countries' efforts for establishing peace and security on the joint border, events related to northern Iraq have always been on the agenda of Iran-Turkey talks. This is so because the continuation of the situation not only means greater instability in northern Iraq but it can also create crises for Iraq's neighbors: Iran, Turkey, and Syria.

There is no doubt that the ongoing crisis in northern Iraq is largely the outcome of the strategic blunders committed by the officials of that country during the early nineties.

But the vigilant and farsighted manner in which Iraq's neighbors deal with the current situation in that country can level the way for the return of durable peace to the region and discard domination seeking powers' justification for the presence of alien troops in this geographical boundary.

Tajik Government, Opposition To Meet in Tehran

NC1705075194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0230 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Talks between the Tajik Government and opposition are to start in Tehran on 4 June. In an interview, a Tajik opposition leader said that the topics to be discussed by the two sides have been discussed with UN representatives and agreed upon. He also expressed the opposition's readiness to sign a provisional cease-fire agreement.

Direct Flights Begin Between Tehran, Almaty

LD1805084794 Tehran IRNA in English 0637 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Almaty, May 18, IRNA—Direct flights between Tehran and Almaty, Kazakhstan began operation Monday when an Iran Air plane landed at the international airport here. An Iranian diplomat here B. Ahmadi expressed hope that the weekly flights would further promote Tehran-Almaty relations. Direct flights have been in operation between Almaty and Mashhad, capital city of northeastern province of Iran, since last year.

Bank Chief on Means to Stabilize Exchange Rate

LD1805102994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] The governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran said exchange rates fluctuations are only short term. He said: By implementing monetary, foreign exchange, and commercial policies the government intends to steer the foreign exchange market toward stable exchange rates.

Our correspondent reports that Central Bank Governor 'Adeli said: Goods importers are the main applicants for foreign currency.

He referred to the shock prices on international oil markets in recent months and its effect in creating an imbalance in the country's balance of trade. He said: Using the two levers of foreign exchange and foreign trade policies, particularly in the import of goods, in the short term, to restore balance to foreign payments is unavoidable.

He emphasised the beneficial effects of those policies in the long run to stabilize exchange rates. He said stabilizing the exchange rate is the government's strongest action in protecting domestic products.

Agriculture Official on State Purchases, Exports

LD1705142994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] More than 30 billion rials has been allocated for the purchase of wheat from farmers in the current season. This was announced by the deputy agriculture minister for the regulation of agricultural produce at a news conference.

He said: About 5,350 tonnes of wheat were purchased from farmers last year. Over 5,800 tonnes will be purchased, at a guaranteed price of 260 rials per kilogram, this year. He added: Other produce will also be bought at guaranteed prices.

He added: More than $800 million worth of assorted agricultural produce was exported last year. By the end of this year, more than $850 million worth of agricultural produce will be exported.

Large Heroin, Opium Seizure in Khorasan Province

LD1805200494 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Mashhad (Khorasan) May 18, IRNA—Over the past week 806 kgs of opium and 3.5 kgs of heroin were seized from traffickers near the desert areas of this northeastern border province.

According to Colonel Sardar Hamid-Reza Musavi of the Khorasan law enforcement personnel, the latest drug haul was the result of the 'saeqa' (lightning) operations staged simultaneously in 23 security regions of the province.

Last year 130 clashes occurred with armed bandits which resulted in the death of 61 'death merchants' and arrest of 58 others, he added.

Also during the same period 55 different weapons and 100 grenades were seized from the traffickers.

Ministry Opens 185 New Telecommunication Centers

LD1805205494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] During the Telecommunications Week, 185 telecommunication centers with a capacity of 195,000 telephone lines were inaugurated throughout the country. Also, 279 rural telecommunication offices were commissioned.

In an interview with correspondents today, on the occasion of Telecommunications Week, the post, telegraph, and telephone minister announced the news and said: The most modern technology was used to develop the country's telecommunication network, and 3,000 kms of fiber optic cable were used.

He added: With the inauguration of a factory producing fiber optics and its raw materials, our country will soon be among those producing such materials.

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